

Special Issue

Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation

Message from the Guest Editors

Women frequently take a variety of drugs during pregnancy and lactation, including prescription, over the counter, and herbal agents. It is well known that pregnancy induces significant changes in both pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of most drugs with a high intra- and interpatient variability. Unfortunately, data on long-term safety of the prenatal and breastfed-exposed infants are still lacking for many drugs. For this reason, most medications do not include labelling information about their use during pregnancy and lactation. Choosing the appropriate drug dose for a pregnant and nursing woman is a difficult balancing act between optimal maternal treatment and minimal risk of fetal or breastfed infant harm. Therapeutic drug monitoring may be a useful tool for dose adjustment in this period, and analysis of the umbilical cord/maternal serum drug concentration ratio is the method recommended to assess transplacental transfer. Recognizing pregnant and lactating women as special populations is essential to obtain information about the safety and efficacy of drugs, which is of crucial importance. This Special Issue will include original and review articles.

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