

Antidepressant use during pregnancy and ADHD risk in children: current knowledge.

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Abstract

Antidepressants (ADs) are among the most frequently used medications in pregnancy. ADs can cross the placental barrier (Rampono et al. *Pharmacopsychiatry* 2009;42(3):95-100, Loughhead et al. *Biol Psychiatry* 2006;59(3):287-90), resulting in a dysfunction of the serotonergic and norepinephrine systems, which could cause inattention or hyperactivity-impulsivity behaviors as exhibited in ADHD. Several epidemiological studies have investigated the potential link between AD exposure during pregnancy and the risk of attention deficit disorder with/without hyperactivity (ADHD) in children. However, findings have been conflicting.