
FIP HOLDING STATEMENT ON Paracetamol use during pregnancy

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) notes recent public claims linking paracetamol (acetaminophen) use during pregnancy with autism in children.

Current scientific evidence does not support these claims. Robust evaluations from leading regulators, including the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA, UK), the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#), Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing (Australia), and the [European Medicines Agency](#), have found no causal link between paracetamol use during pregnancy and neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism or ADHD in children.

Paracetamol is recommended as the first-choice painkiller for pregnant women, used at the lowest dose and for the shortest duration. If pain does not resolve, then patients are advised to seek advice from a healthcare professional, according to the [NHS Guidance](#). Pregnant women should always consult their pharmacist and other healthcare professionals if they have questions about using any medicine during pregnancy. It is important to recognise that untreated fever and pain can themselves pose risks to the unborn child.

As the global organisation representing pharmacy, pharmaceutical education, science and workforce, FIP stresses the importance of basing public health discussions on sound scientific evidence. Misinformation risks undermining trust in medicines and discouraging appropriate treatment, potentially causing harm.

FIP's vision is a world where everyone benefits from access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and health technologies, as well as from pharmaceutical care services provided by pharmacists in



collaboration with other healthcare professionals. Pharmacists worldwide remain committed to supporting patients in making safe and informed decisions about medicines during pregnancy and beyond.

ABOUT FIP

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and is in official relations with the World Health Organization. Through our 160 member organisations, we represent over four million pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmaceutical educators around the world. www.fip.org

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