Today’s piece was prepared by Lisa Force, MD, based on a Time Magazine article, “Tylenol During Pregnancy Linked to Higher Risk of ADHD” <http://time.com/9961/tylenol-during-pregnancy-linked-to-higher-risk-of-adhd/>

# This article discusses a JAMA Pediatrics study, “Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy, Behavioral Problems, and Hyperkinetic Disorders” finding a strong correlation between the use of acetaminophen in pregnancy and subsequent ADHD diagnosis and treatment in exposed children. Participants included mothers registered in the Danish National Birth Cohort from 1996 - 2002 (N of 64,322), and the TIME article describes a 37% increased risk of ADHD diagnosis and 29% increased risk of ADHD medication use, as compared to mothers who did not use acetaminophen during pregnancy. The researchers attempted to account for other potential contributors to fetal brain development, such as why the mothers required acetaminophen, but still found a strong link. The article describes the results as “worrisome” as over 50% of pregnant women in the study took acetaminophen. The article does refer to an editorial accompanying the study which cautions that only an association, rather than causation, is established between acetaminophen and ADHD, but finishes by cautioning pregnant women to consider gritting through fever or pain episodes.

The TIME article does a decent job of describing the positives of the study, but neglects to clarify other reasons for potential increases in ADHD diagnoses, and notes a dose dependent effect to the risk of acetaminophen use which cannot be extrapolated from the data in the original article. In addition, the loss of nearly a third of mothers to follow-up was not mentioned in the TIME article, and the warning needed for extrapolating a specific population, who may have a genetic predilection to acetaminophen use or ADHD, was not referenced. The article ends with a note of caution for *any* acetaminophen use in pregnancy, which may leave readers of the article more fearful than necessary, and potentially with poorly managed pain in pregnancy.

**RESOURCES ON MEDICATION & PREGNANCY:**

* CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/meds/index.html>
* Motherrisk <http://www.motherisk.org/women/index.jsp> *Website of The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, this site is (recommended by FDA, with helpline phone numbers*
* Tetralogy Society <http://www.teratology.org/pdf/Acetaminophen%20FAQ%20March%202014.pdf> *Fact PDF on Tylenol use in Pregnancy (post JAMA article)*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!