

Study finds epilepsy drug to be safe during pregnancy

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New research indicates that use of the epilepsy drug lamotrigine during pregnancy does not increase the risk of birth malformations or neurodevelopmental disorders. The *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* study provides the most extensive long-term report regarding children whose mothers took lamotrigine while pregnant.

The study included the children of 83 epileptic women treated with lamotrigine during pregnancy at a tertiary medical center between 2004 and 2014. All newborns were monitored and parents completed a questionnaire regarding their child's development and health up to the age of 12 years.

"The results of this study are [good news](#) for both pregnant epileptic women and their children, as well as their treating neurologists," said co-author Dr. Itai Berger, of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, in Jerusalem.

More information: Merav Cohen-Israel et al, Short and Long Term Complications of In Utero Exposure to Lamotrigine, *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/bcp.13437](https://doi.org/10.1111/bcp.13437)

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