



## Acetaminophen is Safe During Pregnancy

### For Immediate Release

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The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians wishes to address recent unfounded claims linking acetaminophen (Tylenol) use during pregnancy to autism spectrum disorders. Based on current scientific evidence, we strongly affirm that acetaminophen remains a safe and appropriate medication for pregnant women when used as directed.

#### **The Evidence:**

- Multiple large-scale studies and systematic reviews have not established a causal link between prenatal acetaminophen exposure and autism
- Health Canada, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, and international health organizations continue to recommend acetaminophen as the first-line analgesic and antipyretic for pregnant women
- Any observational studies suggesting associations have significant methodological limitations and cannot establish causation

#### **The Real Risk:**

Untreated fever during pregnancy poses well-documented risks including neural tube defects, miscarriage, and preterm labor. These risks are immediate and evidence-based, unlike the unsubstantiated autism claims.

#### **Our Recommendation:**

Pregnant women should continue to use acetaminophen as directed for fever and pain management. The benefits of treating fever during pregnancy far outweigh any theoretical risks. Delaying or avoiding treatment based on misinformation could result in serious maternal and fetal complications.

We urge pregnant women to consult with their healthcare providers about fever management rather than avoiding proven safe treatments based on unfounded claims.



# Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians

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## CAEP Endorses the Following:

- American College of Emergency Physicians: [Tylenol is Safe and Effective for Pregnant Patients](#)
- Health Canada: [Acetaminophen is a recommended treatment for fever and pain during pregnancy](#)
- Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada: [Position on Acetaminophen During Pregnancy Featured in Associated Press Article](#)

## About CAEP

As the national voice of emergency medicine (EM), CAEP provides continuing medical education, advocates on behalf of emergency physicians and their patients, supports research and strengthens the EM community. In co-operation with other specialties and committees, CAEP also plays a vital role in the development of national standards and clinical guidelines. CAEP keeps Canadian emergency physicians informed of developments in the clinical practice of EM and addresses political and societal changes, that affect the delivery of emergency health care.

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