



*Review article*

## ***Antiepileptic Drugs used in Pregnancy and their Consequences on Fetal Outcomes***

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### **ABSTRACT**

The teratogenic risks caused by intrauterine exposure to antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) are known, so their prescription is kept under strict control. Describe the adverse fetal effects of exposure to AEDs during pregnancy, reported in the literature during the period 2016-2022. Systematized review of studies that reported fetal adverse effects induced by exposure to AEDs in pregnant women undergoing treatment for neurological diagnoses, mainly epilepsy. The search was carried out in PubMed, Cochrane, Web of Science, SCOPUS, Virtual Health Library, Lilacs and SciELO. 37 articles distributed in 13 countries in Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania were identified. Adverse perinatal outcomes, both physical and cognitive, were observed in the majority of studies. The drugs identified as the most used in recent years were valproate, topiramate, carbamazepine, lamotrigine and levetiracetam. AEDs have teratogenic potential in different degrees of risk, causing congenital anomalies or adverse effects in multiple systems of the human body, with the nervous, circulatory and musculoskeletal systems being the most affected.

**Keywords:** *regnancy; Epilepsy; Teratogens; Drug-induced abnormalities; Anticonvulsants.*

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