

Administration of Tdap vaccine during pregnancy not linked with preterm delivery

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Among approximately 26,000 women, receipt of the tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine during pregnancy was not associated with increased risk of preterm delivery or small-for-gestational-age birth or with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, although a small increased risk of being diagnosed with chorioamnionitis (an inflammation of the membranes that surround the fetus) was observed, according to a study in the November 12 issue of *JAMA*.

The Tdap [vaccine](#) was licensed in 2005 for use in nonpregnant adolescents and adults. Initially, postpartum administration of Tdap to parents and other caregivers was encouraged to prevent the transmission of pertussis to newborns. However, recent outbreaks, including infant deaths, have led to changing Tdap vaccine recommendations. In 2010, California became the first state to recommend Tdap be routinely administered during [pregnancy](#). Tdap is now recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for all [pregnant women](#), preferably between 27 and 36 weeks' gestation. To date, there have been limited specific data on whether vaccination with Tdap during pregnancy adversely affects the health of mothers or their offspring, according to background information in the article.

Elyse O. Kharbanda, M.D., M.P.H., of the HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research, Minneapolis, and colleagues used administrative health care databases from 2 California Vaccine Safety Datalink sites to examine whether receipt of Tdap during pregnancy was

associated with increased risks of selected adverse obstetric or birth outcomes. Included in the analysis were 123,494 women with pregnancies ending in a live birth between January 1, 2010 and November 15, 2012; 26,229 (21 percent) received Tdap during pregnancy and 97,265 did not.

The researchers found that receipt of Tdap during pregnancy was not associated with increased risk of preterm (

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