

# Anti-thyroid Rx exposure ups risk of congenital malformations

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(HealthDay)—Exposure to anti-thyroid drugs (ATDs) during the first

trimester of pregnancy is associated with increased risk of congenital malformations, according to a study published online Jan. 23 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Gi Hyeon Seo, M.D., from Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service in Wonju-si, South Korea, and colleagues examined the correlation between maternal ATD prescriptions and [congenital malformations](#) in live births. Data were included for 2,886,970 completed pregnancies linked to live-born infants in 2,210,253 women between 2008 and 2014 from the Korean National Health Insurance database.

The researchers found that 0.45 percent of pregnancies were exposed to ATDs in the first [trimester](#). The prevalence of malformations was 7.27 versus 5.94 percent in exposed offspring versus offspring of women who were not prescribed ATDs during pregnancy (adjusted odds ratio, 1.19). Compared to pregnancies without ATD prescriptions, the absolute increases in the prevalence of congenital malformations were 8.81, 17.05, and 16.53 cases per 1,000 [live births](#) for propylthiouracil alone, methimazole (MMI) alone, and propylthiouracil and MMI, respectively. A high cumulative dose (>495 mg) versus a low dose (1 to 126 mg) during the first trimester in the MMI group correlated with increased risk for malformations (adjusted odds ratio, 1.87).

"Exposure to ATDs during the first trimester was associated with increased risk for congenital malformations, particularly for pregnancies in which women received prescriptions for MMI or both ATDs," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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