

Vaccine use in pregnancy: Deferring risk

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Existing gaps and serious limitations concerning the information in vaccine product labels makes it challenging for health care providers to know when to recommend vaccination to pregnant women. A new study, which identified these knowledge gaps, surveyed health care providers, and recommended improvements for the future is published in the peer-

reviewed *Journal of Women's Health*.

Health care providers are often hesitant to recommend vaccination in pregnancy, and this hesitancy has been linked to inconsistencies and ambiguity in [vaccine information](#), evidence, and policies, including information in vaccine labels. In their survey, Janice Graham, Ph.D., from Dalhousie University and the Canadian Center for Vaccinology, and coauthors, showed that [health care providers](#) were uncertain about the purpose of vaccine product labels and the evidence contained in them. More than a third of the [survey](#) respondents incorrectly thought that the information contained in the product labels was updated regularly. "Most health care providers were unaware that labels are not up-to-date about the risks or burden of the disease," state the investigators.

"More frequent updating and alignment of robust, unbiased, and independently reviewed clinical trial and post-market safety and effectiveness evidence with Nation Immunization Technical Advisory Group recommendations would allay health care providers and public misunderstanding," conclude the investigators.

"For the COVID-19 vaccines, specifically, there are no data about pregnancy and breastfeeding included in the labeling. As noted by the authors, despite the growing body of evidence about the use of COVID-19 vaccines and the risk of severe disease from COVID-19, there is no indication if/when those vaccine labels will be updated," says *Journal of Women's Health* Editor-in-Chief Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA.

More information: Terra Anne Manca et al, Deferring Risk: Limitations to the Evidence in Product Labels for Vaccine Use in Pregnancy, *Journal of Women's Health* (2022). [DOI:](#)

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