

For further information

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EURAP

<http://www.eurapinternational.org>

**AN INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY
of ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS
AND PREGNANCY**



The primary objective of EURAP is to compare the safety of different antiepileptic drugs in the human foetus with respect to the occurrence of major malformations and delayed prenatal growth.

What

is EURAP?

EURAP is a consortium of independent research groups that have agreed on a common protocol for a prospective assessment of pregnancy outcome after prenatal exposure to antiepileptic drugs and to establish a registry of antiepileptic drugs and pregnancy.

Why

a pregnancy registry?

The use of antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy has been associated with an increased risk of birth defects. However, there are many antiepileptic drugs to choose from, and it is presently unclear if some of these drugs are safer to use during pregnancy than others.

A comparison of the teratogenic effects of different drugs requires information from large numbers of patients, which can only be accomplished in an international collaboration. To avoid selection bias, such studies should be prospective, enrolling exposed women before pregnancy outcome is known.

How

it works?

EURAP is an observational study and does not interfere with the treatment prescribed by the patient's physician.

The aim is to collect information concerning risk factors, exposures during pregnancy and pregnancy outcome. The data are part of the information that should be generally available during good medical care, the study does not entail any special evaluation procedure or extra visits.

Women taking antiepileptic drugs at conception may be included, whether the indication for treatment is epilepsy or other disorders. Cases should be ascertained as early as possible and always before foetal outcome is known.

Networks of collaborating physicians have been established in a number of countries. Participating physicians enrol cases and report to national coordinators (where available) or directly to the EURAP Central Registry in Milan, Italy.

Data on individual pregnancies are registered in an anonymous way to guarantee confidentiality.

Who

may contribute?

All physicians who care for women taking antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy are invited to contribute. You may join the network and work directly by enrolling and reporting pregnancies or you may assist in referring interested patients to collaborating physicians in your region.

At this time more than 1,500 reporting physicians from 47 countries had contributed cases to the Central Registry and more than 31,000 pregnancies had been entered into the central database.