

Risk of birth defects with oral fluconazole?

The overall risk of birth defects was not increased among infants whose mothers took oral fluconazole during the first trimester of pregnancy, in a large registry study that provides "largely reassuring" results regarding the teratogenicity of this drug, according to the authors. In the study that included data on more than 7,000 pregnancies exposed to fluconazole in Denmark, fluconazole (largely at the most commonly prescribed 150-mg or 300-mg single doses) was also not associated with an increased risk of 14 of the 15 specific birth defects that have been associated with azole antifungal drugs in human or animal studies. But the risk of tetralogy of Fallot was increased by about threefold, an association that needs to be studied further, concluded Ditte Mølgaard-Nielsen and her associates in the department of epidemiology research, Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen.

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