

Published based on [Zoloft Poses High Birth Defect Risk](#)

Zoloft Poses High Birth Defect Risk

Zoloft is one of the most widely prescribed antidepressants, which belongs to the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) class. In order to obtain the desirable effect of the drug, one must strictly follow its therapeutic regimen. Moreover, this drug may interact with other substances, for instance, the mixture of [Zoloft and alcohol](#) might cause dangerous effects.

Unfortunately, things may not go so well for this drug as complaints about birth defects associated with Zoloft use are rising in number. It was found in a study issued in the New England Journal of Medicine that women who are taking Zoloft in the early part of their pregnancy have twice the risk of giving to birth to a baby with cardiac defects. Although, we may only be looking at one small angle.

Currently, medical professionals are trying to find the connection between Zoloft and these side effects:

A **club foot** is a congenital deformity where one foot or both are internally rotated to the ankle. It is perhaps the most frequent congenital deformity of the feet and its degree may range from mild to severe and rigid. Management of the problem may involve moving the foot into the correct position and applying a cast which is necessary to maximize the function of foot.

Cleft lip or palate is a fissure or an opening on the upper lip or the roof of the mouth (palate). This defect, however, can be treated with the surgical repair that can be conducted a few months after birth.

Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn (PPHN) is a life-threatening disorder in which the newborn's arteries to the lungs remain constricted after birth, limiting the amount of blood flow to the lungs and therefore the amount of oxygen into the bloodstream. Care of the newborn with PPHN must be meticulous involving a continuous monitoring of oxygenation, blood pressure and perfusion. It involves the administration of inotropic drugs like dopamine and dobutamine as well as surfactants and mechanical ventilation.

There are a number of **cardiac defects** ranging from slight abnormality to serious conditions. They may cause the heart not to function properly which may result in developmental problems of the child or even death. There are instances that the defects will heal by themselves but some may require surgery to repair the problem.

Brain and spinal cord defects are actually the defects involving to the failure of the neural tube to close which is the herald of the central nervous system. The surgery itself can treat the physical aspect of the child but the impact on its distortion to the nerve functions may mean enduring a permanent physical and emotional suffering to the child.

Birth defects are serious matters thus if you found out that you are pregnant or you are planning to have a child, inform your doctor before starting your Zoloft therapy. No one would want your child to sustain potentially lifelong agonies.

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