



## **Registry's Data Suggests Correlation between Antiepileptic Drugs in Pregnancy and Prematurity**

According to a [new study](#) using the North American AED (antiepileptic drug) Pregnancy Registry's data, pregnant women on antiepileptic drugs may be at an increased risk for having small for gestational age babies. The study was recently published in the [Annals of Neurology \( 2017; 82:457-465 \)](#), the official Journal of the American Neurological Association and the Child Neurology Society.

The study compared infants exposed prenatally to AEDs and born to women with epilepsy, infants exposed to AEDs and born to women without epilepsy and infants not exposed to AEDs and born to women without epilepsy. Data was collected from nearly 8,000 women.

The North American AED Pregnancy Registry, headed by Lewis B. Holmes, MD, a professor of pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children and Harvard Medical School who has published several studies on AED effects during pregnancy, notes that "surveying women who are using AEDs while pregnant is crucial since the risk for adverse effects varies from drug to drug." Through observational research that includes phone interviews and a review of medical records, the Registry is focused on connecting with pregnant woman to answer confidently whether a particular anticonvulsant medication is safe during pregnancy. "The information being collected through our Registry can lead to better care of epileptic women during their pregnancies who need to take medication," he added.

*Interested in learning how you or someone else can help us continue to find answers?  
Check out our website: [aedpregnancyregistry.org](http://aedpregnancyregistry.org). Participation in our voluntary study is quick, confidential and requires no changes to your current routine.*