

Patient Education Projects

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Debunking Medical Myths: Flu Vaccine and Pregnancy

Chase Morrison

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hi2717@wayne.edu

Saranya Madan

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hj2159@wayne.edu

Erin Bybee

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hi2097@wayne.edu

Mehrnoosh Ghafouri Abbasabadi

Wayne State University School of Medicine, gg0868@wayne.edu

Madison Graifman

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hj2210@wayne.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Flu Vaccine and Pregnancy

Group Red 40: Isaiah Hough, Madison Graifman, Saranya Madan, Chase Morrison, Mehrnoosh Ghafouri, Erin Bybe

"I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE VACCINE"

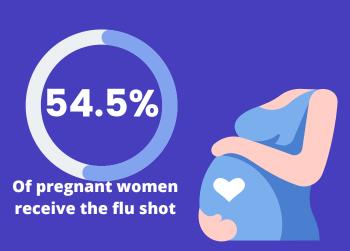
You're not alone

- 1. The lowest vaccination rates are among minority communities.
- 2. <u>Mistrust</u> among minorities communities is a result of past medical racism and experimentation
- 3. Doctors may not be aware of a mother's concern about the flu vaccine's safety.
- 4. There is not enough communication between soon-to-be mothers and their providers about the flu shot

"I DON'T NEED IT! IT WON'T WORK!"

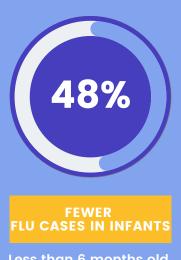
- Pregnant women are at a <u>higher</u> <u>risk</u> of hospitalization from the flu.
- The <u>best protection</u> against the flu is the flu shot.
- A study of over 30,000 pregnant women showed that the flu vaccine reduced emergency room visits by 81% and hospitalizations by 65% (Restivo et al).





But is it safe for me and my baby?

The data shows that not only does vaccination reduce the likelihood of adverse events in the mother's health, but that it confers passive immunity to the infant with no evidence for congenital anomalies, diseases, or other concerns (UpToDate,2021)



Less than 6 months old



FEWER HOSPITALIZATIONS

In pregnant mothers
(Restivo et al)



FEWER ER VISITS

In pregnant mothers
(Restivo et al)

"IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE"

- The flu shot can be given safely at any point during pregnancy.
- There is a slight increase in protection against the flu if the vaccine is given later in pregnancy, but this effect is modest.

"HOW IS GETTING THE VACCINE BENEFICIAL FOR MY BABY?"



- An infant born to a mother infected with influenza is at a <u>higher risk</u> of preterm birth, low birth weight, ICU admission, and even death
- Flu vaccines are not available for use in infants under six months old, so these babies rely on antibodies from their mother

References

settive V. Costantino C. Bano a. e. at a influenza vocacine effectiveness among high-tist groups. A systematic literature evidew and mainly analysis of case-control and coloral studies. How Vocacin immunother. 2018;14(3):724-773. doi:10.1803/jst4585.207132722 among R. Company and State Colorador and Colorador State Colorador and Colorador State Colorador State Colorador and Colorador State Color