TITLE: Methadone Use During Pregnancy: Risk of Developmental Delay

DATE: 20 January 2010

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the evidence for the risk of developmental delays in children whose mothers were methadone users during pregnancy?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2009), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between 2005 and January 2010. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

RESULTS:

The literature search identified one observational study on the risk of developmental delays in children whose mothers were methadone users during pregnancy. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or controlled clinical trials were identified. Additional articles of potential interest are included in the appendix.

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, and observational studies.
OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

One Swiss-based observational study was identified. The study authors tested the intelligence of 61 children (infant to preadolescent) born to substance-dependent mothers. The results showed significantly lower IQ performance in children exposed to heroin or methadone in utero, compared with population norms.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED:

Health technology assessments
No literature identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified

Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Controlled clinical trials
No literature identified

Observational studies


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Observational studies


Review articles


Additional references
