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NSAID use during pregnancy

A Canadian research study suggests that taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, during pregnancy increases the risk of miscarriage.

As a result, PAGB would like to highlight the following:

- Before taking any medicine when you're pregnant, you should get advice from your midwife or GP.
- For several decades, pregnant women have been advised to avoid NSAIDs. All over-the-counter (OTC) painkiller packs feature labelling to this effect.
- Paracetamol is generally regarded as the only painkiller that is safe to use in pregnancy. As with any medicine taken during pregnancy, paracetamol should be used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time.
- All pregnant women participating in the study were prescribed NSAIDs by their doctors.
- The study **did not** include aspirin which is sometimes prescribed in pregnancy to prevent particular serious conditions such as pre-eclampsia.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

- PAGB (The Proprietary Association of Great Britain) is the UK trade association representing manufacturers of over-the-counter medicines and food supplements



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