Concerns: Pregnancy Safety

Pregnant women with HIV often don’t receive treatment per guidelines, according to a study of more than 1,800 HIV-positive pregnant women

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Pregnant women with HIV often are not prescribed antiretroviral treatment in line with federal guidelines. Researchers analyzed data from more than 1,800 HIV-positive pregnant women, comparing each woman’s antiretroviral regimen against Department of Health and Human Services treatment guidelines. Overall, half were prescribed regimens designated as preferred (safe during pregnancy) or alternative (no known safety concerns). Another 26% were prescribed regimens with insufficient data on use during pregnancy, while 7% were given regimens not recommended for use during pregnancy. Among women who started treatment for the first time when they were already pregnant, 70% were prescribed preferred or alternative regimens, but 20% received combinations that had insufficient data or were not recommended. “Further research is needed to understand disparities between prescribing practices and evidence-based guideline recommendations,” the study authors concluded.

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