

Special Issue

Clinical, Toxicological and Environmental Aspects of Maternal and Child Health in the Light of Gender and Age Differences

Message from the Guest Editors

Taking psychotropics during gestation can lead to adverse perinatal and postnatal outcomes; however, psychotherapy in these women to stop medication presents new risks associated with untreated or inadequately treated mental illnesses. However, all psychotropic drugs, numerous environmental toxicants and substances of abuse can cross the placenta, are present in the amniotic fluid, and can enter breast milk. The FDA, the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee and Micromedex, have classified drugs according to risk during pregnancy, but little has been done to study and produce drugs tailored for women, pregnant women and infants and adolescents. Most of the new drugs placed on the market are exclusively tested on a man of average age, male sex and normal weight, but maternal-fetal health and healthy childhood and adolescence are not protected in this way. Chemical and environmental toxicants' effect on pregnant women also warrants detailed investigation.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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