

Prenatal and Perinatal Illicit and Prescription Drug Use-Implications for the Fetus and Neonate

Objectives

- Recall recent national survey findings for the United States regarding the rate of misuse of prescription opioids during pregnancy
- Discuss prenatal and perinatal approaches to prevent drug effects in the fetus and newborn through screening, counseling, and informed medication use
- Summarize the potential short and long term effects for the fetus and/or neonate following antenatal exposure to the range of specific illegal or prescription drugs and substances presented
- Describe the constellation of clinical signs known as neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)/neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOW) including risk factors, prevention, diagnosis, ongoing severity assessment, and treatment, both nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic

Content Outline

1. Fetal and Neonatal Aspects of Antenatal Exposure to Substance Use or Misuse
 - 1.1 Scope of the problem and legislative actions taken to address the issue
 - 1.2 Summary of prenatal drug exposure effects
 - 1.3 Approaches to prenatal prevention of maternal substance or drug use
 - 1.4 Basis and shortcomings of neonatal screening and biologic testing at birth
 - 1.5 Neonatal effects of exposure to specific substances and drugs
 - 1.5.1 Cannabinoids (marijuana)
 - 1.5.2 Opioids
 - 1.5.3 Nonopioid hypnotics (benzodiazepines or barbiturates)
 - 1.5.4 Cocaine
 - 1.5.5 Amphetamines
 - 1.5.6 Alcohol
 - 1.6 Risks, prevention, diagnosis, assessment, nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic treatment of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)
 - 1.6.1 Finnegan Neonatal Abstinence Scoring Tool
 - 1.6.2 Eat, Sleep, Console Care Tool
 - 1.6.3 Drug treatment using oral morphine, oral methadone or sublingual buprenorphine

Reading Material Resources

Module WB2656: Prenatal and Perinatal Illicit and Prescription Drug Use-Implications for the Fetus and Neonate is based on the resource listed below. A copy of the resource is included with the module.

Chapter 48, Infants of Substance-Using Mothers, Hudak ML in *Fanaroff and Martin's Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Twelfth Edition*, 2025, Elsevier, 802-817