

# Letters to the Editor: Editors' Choice

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## Editors' Note: Teratogenesis, Perinatal, and Neurodevelopmental Outcomes After In Utero Exposure to Antiseizure Medication: Practice Guideline From the AAN, AES, and SMFM

In their systematic review and practice guideline, the *American Academy of Neurology*, the American Epilepsy Society, and the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine sought to provide a scoping summary and recommendations regarding antiseizure medications (ASMs) for people of childbearing potential.<sup>1</sup> Among the most impactful findings, the authors summarized prevalence rates of major congenital malformations associated with the use of single or multiple ASMs and their confidence in the quality of the evidence. In response, Dr. Brailon questioned the purpose of this guideline and claimed that there are no tools for implementation, no funding for programs to mitigate risk of ASMs (as there are in Europe), and no mention of intergenerational effects of ASMs (e.g., effects of these therapies passed on from patients previously exposed in utero). The authors replied that the objective of this guideline was to address 4 prespecified questions that were derived from an expert consensus and made available previously for public comment. Additional resources for patients, including a patient summary article, "pocket cards," and other educational materials, can be found on the AAN website. Moving forward, there are ample opportunities to leverage automated alerts and artificial intelligence in the medical record system to facilitate shared decision making in the care of patients with epilepsy who are of childbearing potential. In our opinion, this practice guideline could serve as a useful reference in selecting an ASM and in counseling these patients.

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*Neurology*® 2025;104:e213340. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000213340

1. Pack AM, Oskoui M, Williams Roberson S, et al. Teratogenesis, perinatal, and neurodevelopmental outcomes after in utero exposure to antiseizure medication: practice guideline from the AAN, AES, and SMFM. *Neurology*. 2024;102(11):e209279. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000209279

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