Participate in an Australian-wide study on biologic use in pregnancy

We are currently conducting a study looking at outcomes of pregnancies in women with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (e.g. Rheumatoid arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis) exposed to biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (biologics) in Australia.

Many Australian women with rheumatic disease are of childbearing age. A significant number of these women are currently prescribed biological Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (biologics). Already there is data for many of these medicines to suggest their safety in pregnancy. There less information looking at the use of these medicines in pregnant women with rheumatic disease. We know that active inflammatory disease can be bad for pregnancy outcomes, so it is important to assess the use of these treatments at this time in a woman’s life.

We would like to ask for your assistance.

If you are happy to be involved, we would like you to identify your patients that you know have been exposed to biologics just before and during pregnancy.

We would like to email eligible and interested patients information about the project as well as a questionnaire.

If you have eligible patients the easiest way to invite them to participate is to give them a copy of our study flyer (see image). We can post you as many of these as you would like.

If your patient(s) consent to participate, we will contact you again subsequently for further information regarding their disease during their pregnancy. This will include a questionnaire regarding the treatment of their rheumatic disease during their pregnancy.

Thank you for helping us. We are happy to assist in this process in any way we can.

Feel free to contact us with any questions you have on our study email BiologicsPregnancy@health.qld.gov.au

Contact person/coordinator: Dr Katherine Poulsen, Rheumatologist, The Prince Charles Hospital
Chief investigator: Dr Laurel Young, Rheumatologist, Redcliffe Hospital
Other Investigators: Dr Claire Barrett, Rheumatologist, Redcliffe Hospital
Dr Andrew Taylor, Rheumatologist, Royal Perth Hospital
Dr Helen Barrett, Obstetric Medicine Physician, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital

CAN YOU HELP US WITH RESEARCH LOOKING AT PREGNANCIES IN WOMEN WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES?

- Do you have an inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis?
- Are you a woman aged over 18?
- Are you on or have you been on an injection treatment for your arthritis?
- Have you had a pregnancy or are you currently pregnant?

If you answered “yes” to these questions you may be able to take part in a study which aims to help other women with rheumatic diseases who would like to have pregnancies in the future.

We are looking at pregnancy outcomes in women with rheumatic diseases exposed to biologics during pregnancy or around the time of conception. This study does not alter your arthritis management in any way.

Some examples of biologics include:
- abatacept (Orencia)
- adalimumab (Humira)
- certolizumab (Cimzia)
- denosumab (Prolia)
- etanercept (Enbrel)
- golimumab (Simponi)
- infliximab (Remicade)
- rituximab (MabThera)
- tocilizumab (Actemra)
- tofacitinib (Xeljanz)
- ustekinumab (Stelara)

If you are interested in participating or want further information please call Katherine Poulsen on our study phone 0452 423 970 or email her at biologicspregnancy@health.qld.gov.au.

This study has been approved by the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (Ref No: HREC/15/QRH/44)