OI-B-4


FL is frequently used by women of childbearing age. Because half of the pregnancies in North America are unplanned, fetal exposure cannot be avoided. FL has not yet been found to be teratogenic. The aims of this study were to assess the effects of FL on fetal neurodevelopment and to address the safety of using this drug throughout pregnancy. Thirty-six mother-child pairs who were exposed to FL during the first trimester of pregnancy and another 19 mother-child pairs who were exposed throughout pregnancy were compared to 81 mother-child pairs who were exposed to tricyclic antidepressants (TCA) and 87 mother-child pairs exposed to non-teratogenic drugs (NTD). Potential confounding characteristics did not differ between the groups. The primary outcome measure was global IQ, assessed by either the Bayley (<30 mo) or McCarthy (>30 mo) Scales. Mean global IQ scores for younger FL children was 116 ± 17 (n=40), and for the McCarthy group the mean was 114 ± 16 (n=14). The mean global IQs across tests in the TCA group (n=81) and the NTD group (n=84) were 118 ± 13 and 114 ± 13, respectively, which did not differ from FL scores. Children exposed to FL only in the first trimester were not different from those exposed throughout pregnancy (116 ± 17, n=35 and 115 ± 17, n=19, respectively, p < 0.7) Our results on FL use in pregnancy are reassuring.