



September 26th, 2025

AOGU Position Statement on the use of Acetaminophen for management of pain and Fever in Pregnancy

Paracetamol (Acetaminophen) commonly known as “Panadol” is one of the most widely used medications for the management of pain and fever in Uganda and all the world. Because of consistent prior evidence confirming its safety¹, Paracetamol has been recommended for treatment of fever and pain in pregnancy².

We are aware of recent media reports suggesting an association between prenatal exposure to paracetamol and autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, the quality of evidence supporting this claim is weak³ and does not warrant a change in current clinical practice. Moreover, large, recent epidemiological studies have demonstrated no increased risk of autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or intellectual disability in children exposed to paracetamol in utero^{1, 2}.

In light of this evidence, AOGU reaffirms that:

- **Paracetamol should remain the first-line treatment** for the management of pain and fever in pregnancy when medically indicated.
- **Dosing should adhere to recommended limits**, and use should be for the shortest effective duration.
- **Clinicians should provide counselling and reassurance** to pregnant women that current scientific data do not support a causal link between prenatal paracetamol exposure and neurodevelopmental disorders.

This position is aligned with guidance from leading international professional societies, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)⁴, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)⁵, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)⁶ the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)⁷, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO)⁸.

AOGU will continue to monitor emerging evidence and update this guidance as necessary.

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References

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