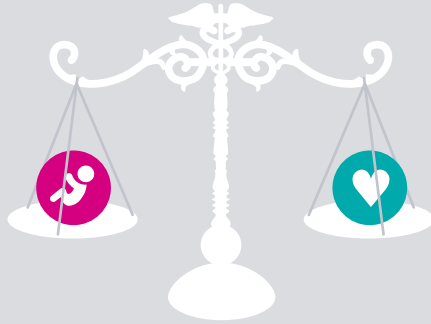
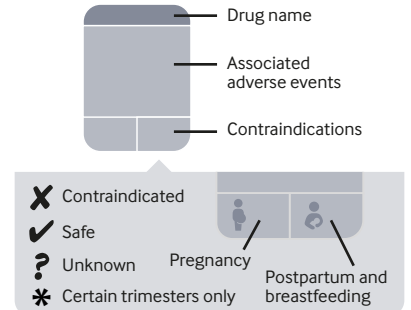


Many cardiac medicines appear safe for use during and after pregnancy, as summarised here. However, evidence is lacking for some drugs, and many of them carry risks of adverse events. Shared decision making, considering risks and benefits of medicines, is vital to help women weigh up potential risks to themselves and their unborn baby.



KEY



β blockers

These are commonly used by pregnant women. However, organ-specific malformations are more prevalent in the offspring of women treated with β blockers, and fetal growth restriction has been reported

Drug name	When used near term:	When used in second and third trimester:
Labetalol	Fetal hypoglycaemia Fetal bradycardia Fetal hypotension	
Bisoprolol	Fetal hypoglycaemia Fetal bradycardia	
Atenolol		Fetal hypoglycaemia Fetal bradycardia Low birth weight

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Drug name	Associated adverse events
Methyldopa	Mild neonatal hypotension. Avoid post partum because of the risk of postnatal depression
Digoxin	Serum levels are unreliable

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Calcium channel blockers

Not associated with an increased incidence of congenital anomalies in humans

Drug name	Notes
Nifedipine	Potential synergism with magnesium sulphate can induce hypotension in mother and fetal hypoxia
Verapamil	Limited evidence Well tolerated

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Platelet aggregation inhibitors

Drug name	Notes
Acetylsalicylic acid	Low dose aspirin safe in early pregnancy, but usually stopped at 34–36 weeks. No teratogenic effects reported
Clopidogrel	Limited evidence Safe in animal studies, but caution is advised. Stop one week before anticipated delivery

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Antiarrhythmic drugs

Drug name	Notes
Adenosine	Limited evidence No fetal adverse effects reported
Procainamide	Limited evidence Unknown. Appears to be safe
Flecainide	Limited evidence Unknown. Appears to be safe
Amiodarone	Might be used in special circumstances. Risk of hypothyroidism, goitre, bradycardia, fetal growth restriction, and preterm birth

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Diuretics and aldosterone antagonists

Drug name	Notes
Bumetanide, furosemide, and hydrochlorothiazide	Oligohydramnios and electrolyte imbalance in the fetus

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Anticoagulants

Drug name	Notes
Warfarin	Risk of fetal abnormalities if used in the first trimester. Can cause intracranial fetal bleeding in second trimester.
Heparin (low molecular weight)	Seldom osteoporosis and markedly less thrombocytopenia than unfractionated heparin.

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

Drugs contraindicated in pregnancy

Drug name	Notes
ACE inhibitors†	High risk of fetal abnormalities. Captopril and Lisinopril considered safe in breast feeding
Angiotensin receptor blockers	High risk of fetal abnormalities
Spirolactone	Limited evidence Possible risk of anomalies of the external genitalia

Icons: Pregnancy (woman), Postpartum (woman and baby)

† ACE inhibitors = Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors

