

PREGNANCY CATEGORIES

When pregnancy appears as a contraindication or precaution to the use of a drug it is usually qualified by a category.

- Category A:** Adequate studies in pregnant women have failed to show a risk to the fetus in the first trimester and there is no evidence of risk in later trimesters.
- Category B:** Animal studies have failed to show a risk to the fetus but there are no adequate studies in pregnant women; or animal studies have shown an adverse effect but human studies have not shown a risk to the fetus in the first trimester and there is no evidence of risk in later trimesters.
- Category C:** Animal studies have shown an adverse effect on the fetus but there are no adequate studies in humans, but the benefits may outweigh the risks; or there are no adequate human studies.
- Category D:** Positive evidence of human fetal risk but the benefits may outweigh the risks.
- Category X:** Animal or human studies have shown fetal abnormalities or toxicity and the risk outweighs the benefits.