

## REPRODUCTIVE CONSEQUENCES OF CANNABIS USE DURING PREGNANCY AND PRECONCEPTION

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### Abstract Body

**Background**With side effects like nausea and the growing legal and cultural acceptance of marijuana, cannabis use during pregnancy has become a common occurrence. While the public has regarded marijuana as a relatively “harmless” substance, the reality is that there are copious adverse effects of marijuana use. While exposure to cannabis may induce suicidal ideations, cognitive impairments, and encourage substance misuse, the focus of this study is to review reproductive consequences that should be considered as part of the counseling for all women, especially those undergoing ART. **Methods**A literature search was conducted on Science Direct database of articles related to cannabis use during pregnancy. Articles were included for analysis if they were written in English, underwent peer-review, and had full-text availability. A total of 6 unique articles were found that met these criteria. **Results**Data suggest that cannabis use can adversely impact female fertility by mechanisms that include impairment of ovarian reserve, disruption of hypothalamic release of gonadotropin releasing hormone, and inhibition of uterine endometrial stromal cell decidualization. The literature also suggests that cannabis use enhances placental barrier permeability to xenobiotics which has the potential to endanger a developing the fetus. Further, THC, a component of cannabis, has been shown to readily cross the placenta, thus exposing the developing fetus. **Conclusion**Marijuana use in the women undergoing ART, including those who subsequently get pregnant may have adverse effects. Counseling regarding these risks appears to be an important aspect of ART and pregnancy care.