

Selection of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Hypertension Medications in Peripartum Women

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DISCLOSURE

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OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate an understanding of pharmacokinetic changes in a pregnant individual

Assess pregnancy and lactation information on prescription drug labeling for safe prescribing of cardiovascular medications

Plan safe and effective medication regimen for peripartum individuals

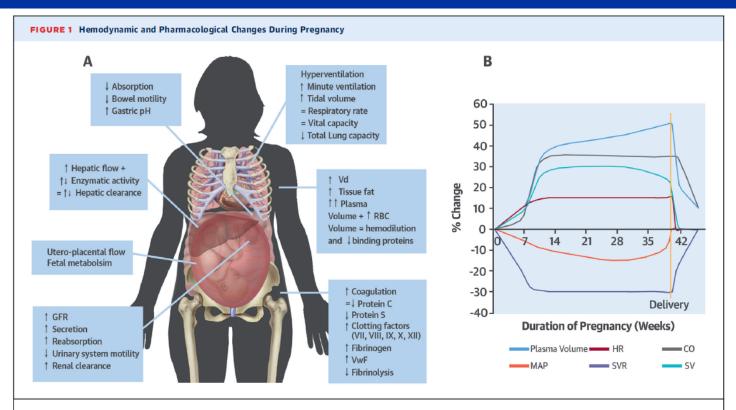


CARDIOVASCULAR (CV) DISEASE AND WOMEN

- Most common cause of indirect maternal mortality during pregnancy
- Incidence affected by individual age, CV risk factors, and history of congenital heart disease
- 64% US pregnant women receive prescription drug
- Up to 1/3 women with CVD use cardiac medications during pregnancy, increasing fetal risk
- 5% women receive "FDA Category X" drug
- General rule: Use the least number of drugs and at the lowest dose



PHARMACOKINETIC AND HEMODYNAMIC CHANGES IN PREGNANCY



The pharmacokinetic and hemodynamic changes throughout pregnancy. (A) System based pharmacokinetic changes throughout pregnancy. (B) hemodynamic changes diagram throughout pregnancy. CO = cardiac output; GFR = glomerular filtration rate; HR = heart rate; MAP = mean arterial pressure; RBC = red blood cell; SV = stroke volume; SVR = systemic vascular resistance; Vd = volume of distribution; VwF = Von Willebrand factor. Image in B adapted from Fuster V, Harrington RA, Narula J, Eapen ZJ, editors. Hurst's the Heart. 14th edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill, 2017.



POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON THE PREGNANT INDIVIDUAL

Reduced GI motility and change in pH

- Reduces absorption
- Reduces bioavailability of certain drugs

Increased volume of distribution

- Reduces serum drug concentration
- Changes halflife Halflife

$$Halflife = 0.693 x \left(\frac{Vd}{CL}\right)$$

 Reduces protein binding

Altered hepatic metabolism

- Increases
 metabolism of
 drugs with high
 hepatic extraction
 ratio
- Upregulates most CYP enzymes

Increased renal plasma flow

- Increases glomerular filtration
- May increase tubular function



TRANSPLACENTAL MEDICATION TRANSFER

Mode of transfer

Passive diffusion

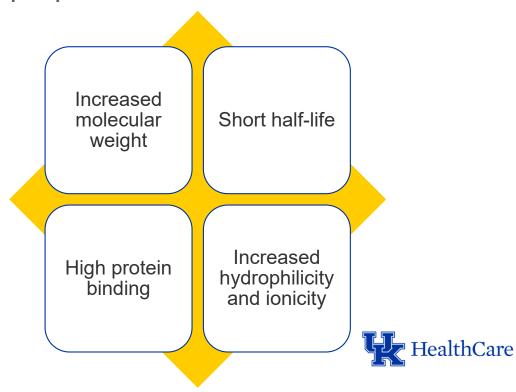
Active transport

Facilitated diffusion

Pinocytosis

Phagocytosis

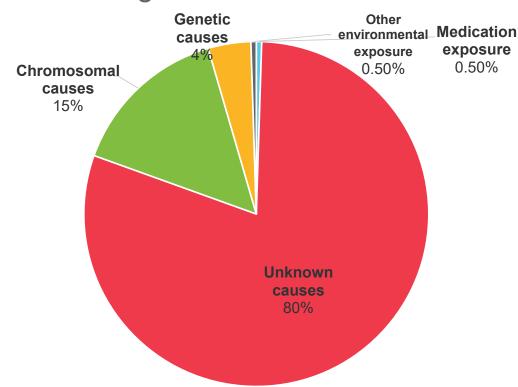
Drug properties affect medication transfer



Syme MR, et al. Clin Pharmacokinet 2004; 43 (8): 487-514

CONGENITAL MALFORMATION

Background risk 3-5%



Leading Categories of Birth Defects

Birth Defects	Estimated Prevalence
Heart and circulation	1 in 115 births
Muscles and skeleton	1 in 130 births
Genital and urinary tract	1 in 135 births
Nervous system and eye	1 in 235 births
Respiratory tract	1 in 900 births
Metabolic disorders	1 in 3500 births

US Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. Reviewer Guidance Evaluating the Risks of Drug Exposure in Human Pregnancies. April 2005.

Forinash AB, Barnes K. Pregnancy and Lactation. DiPiro's Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach, 12th Edition. McGraw Hill; 2023

A TERATOGENIC DRUG EXAMPLE

Note: • = asymmetric carbon atom

1954

Thalidomide created by Chemie Grunenthal (German Rx company)

1958

Drug licensed in the UK. marketed as a wonder drug (headache, insomnia. morning sickness)

1966

FDA laid foundation for development of toxicology testing in animals











1956 First thalidomideaffected

baby born in Germany

1961

Letter by Dr. William McBride published in The Lancet linking thalidomide and phocomelia

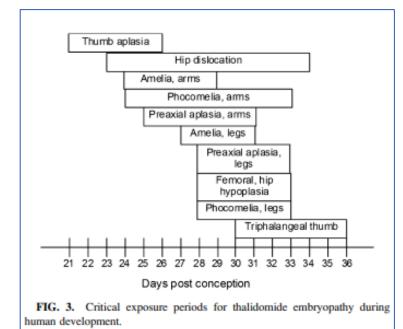


Kim JH, Scialli AR. Toxicol Sci. 2011;122(1):1-6. Thalidomide Trust.. https://www.thalidomidetrust.org/

TOXICOLOGY: DOSE AND TIMING

"What is there that is not poison? All things are poison and nothing is without poison. Solely the dose determines that a thing is not a poison" – Paracelsus (Father of Modern Toxicology)

In reproductive toxicology, timing of exposure is critical to the development of teratogenicity.



Grandjean P. Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol. 2016;119(2):126-132. Kim JH, Scialli AR.Toxicol Sci. 2011;122(1):1-6.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERATOGENIC EFFECTS

- Early or preimplantation
- "All or nothing"

Weeks 1-2 gestation

1st trimester

- Organogenesis
- Structural anomalies

- Brain development
- Growth retardation, CNS abnormalities, behavioral or biochemical changes, impaired organ function

2nd-3rd trimester/ delivery



PREVIOUS PREGNANCY LABELING

From 1979-2015
Classification of drug teratogenicity

Category	Definition
Α	Adequate, well-controlled study data in pregnant women showed no increase risk to fetus in any trimester
В	Animal studies showed no evidence of harm to fetus, no adequate data in pregnant women. Animal studies showed adverse effect, but none in adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women.
С	Animal studies have shown an adverse effect, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women; no animal studies conducted, no adequate studies in pregnant women.
D	Adequate, well-controlled or observational studies in pregnant women showed risk to fetus. Benefits of therapy may outweigh risk.
X	Adequate, well-controlled or observation studies in animals or pregnant women showed fetal abnormalities or risk. Contraindication in pregnant women

Rakusen K. Exp Clin Cardiol 2010;15(4):e100-e103

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION LABELING RULE

- Effective June 30, 2015
- Relevant information for decision-making
- Complete risk statement based on human and animal data
- Background risk in general vs. disease population
- Considerations of disease
- Animal data in context of human exposure
- Human data when available
- Explicitly states when no data are available
- Also included new category on Females and Males of Reproductive Potential
- Drugs approved after June 30, 2001 updated additional content and formatting requirements

HealthCare

EARLY INVOLVEMENT OF MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CARE

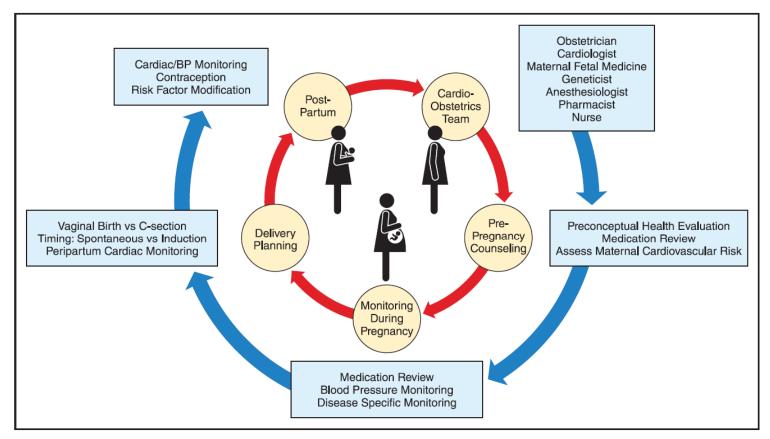




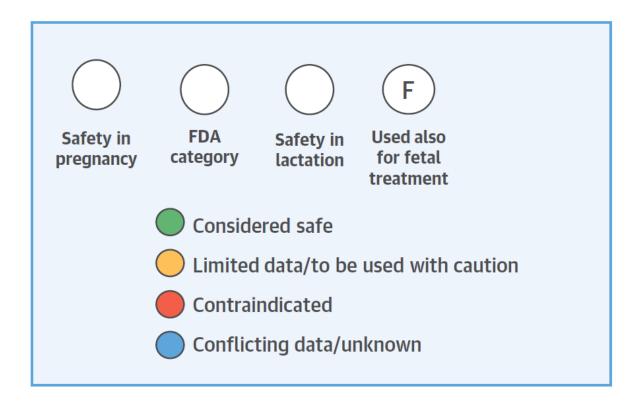
Figure 1. Cardio-obstetrics team in the management of women before pregnancy, during pregnancy, and postpartum. BP indicates blood pressure.

PATIENT AB

- 30-year-old female, G1P0, with history of pulmonary arterial hypertension and previous tobacco use
- Medications:
 - Ambrisentan 10 mg daily
 - Tadalafil 40 mg daily
 - Selexipag 1600 mcg twice daily
 - Furosemide 20 mg daily
 - Progesterone-only pill



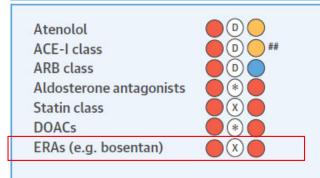
CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICATIONS IN PREGNANCY





PATIENT AB

Contraindicated in Pregnancy



captopril, benazepril and enalapril are considered safe during lactation.

*Variable designation according to specific drug.

Halpern, D.G. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;73(4):457-76.

Medications:

- Ambrisentan 10 mg daily
- Sildenafil 20 mg three times a day
- Selexipag 1600 mcg twice daily
- Furosemide 20 mg daily



AMBRISENTAN



8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Based on data from animal reproduction studies, ambrisentan may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman and is contraindicated during pregnancy. There are limited data on ambrisentan use in pregnant women. In animal reproduction studies, ambrisentan was teratogenic in rats and rabbits at doses which resulted in exposures of 3.5 and 1.7 times, respectively, the human dose of 10 mg per day [see Animal Data]. If this drug is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, advise the patient of the potential hazard to a fetus [see Contraindications (4.1), Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in N clinically recognized pregnancies is 2% to 4% and 15% to 20%, respectively.

Animal Data

Ambrisentan was teratogenic at oral dosages of ≥15 mg/kg/day (AUC 51.7 h•mcg/mL) in rats and ≥7 mg/kg/day (24.7 h•mcg/mL) in rabbits; it was not studied at lower dosages. These dosages are of 3.5 and 1.7 times, respectively, the human dose of 10 mg per day (14.8 h•mcg/mL) based on AUC. In both species, there were abnormalities of the lower jaw and hard and soft palate, malformation of the heart and great vessels, and failure of formation of the thymus and thyroid.

Because of th A preclinical study in rats has shown decreased survival of newborn pups (mid and high dosages) and through a res effects on testicle size and fertility of pups (high dosage) following maternal treatment with ambrisentan **Ambrisentan** from late gestation through weaning. The mid and high dosages were 51 x, and 170 x (on a mg/m² body surface area basis) the maximum oral human dose of 10 mg and an average adult body weight of 70 kg. These effects were absent at a maternal dosage 17 x the human dose based on mg/m².

> Ambrisentan. Package insert. Actavis Pharma Inc; 2019. DailyMed. https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/. Accessed Sept 1, 2023.

SILDENAFIL

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Limited published data from randomized controlled trials, case-controlled trials, and case series do not report a clear association with sildenafil and major birth defects, miscarriage, or adverse maternal or fetal outcomes when sildenafil is used during pregnancy. There are risks to the mother and fetus from untreated pulmonary arterial hypertension (see Clinical Considerations). Animal reproduction studies conducted with sildenafil showed no evidence of embryo-fetal toxicity or teratogenicity at doses up to 32-and 65-times the recommended human dose (RHD) of 20 mg three times a day in rats and rabbits, respectively (See Data).

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2-4% and 15-20%, respectively.

Clinical Considerations

Disease-Associated Maternal and/or Embryo/Fetal Risk

Pregnant women with untreated pulmonary arterial hypertension are at risk for heart failure, stroke, preterm delivery, and maternal and fetal death.

Data

Animal Data

No evidence of teratogenicity, embryotoxicity, or fetotoxicity was observed in pregnant rats or rabbits dosed with sildenafil 200 mg/kg/day during organogenesis, a level that is, on a mg/m ² basis, 32-and 65-times, respectively, the recommended human dose (RHD) of 20 mg three times a day. In a rat pre-and postnatal development study, the no-observed-adverse-effect dose was 30 mg/kg/day (equivalent to 5-times the RHD on a mg/m ² basis).

Sildenafil. Package insert. Advagen Pharma Ltd; 2021.

SELEXIPAG

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies with UPTRAVI in pregnant women. Animal reproduction studies performed with selexipag showed no clinically relevant effects on embryofetal development and survival. A slight reduction in maternal as well as in fetal body weight was observed when pregnant rats were administered selexipag during organogenesis at a dose producing an exposure to the active metabolite approximately 47 times that in humans at the maximum recommended human dose. No adverse developmental outcomes were observed with oral administration of selexipag to pregnant rabbits during organogenesis at exposures to the active metabolite up to 50 times the human exposure at the maximum recommended human dose.

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2-4% and 15-20%, respectively.

Data

Animal Data

Pregnant rats were treated with selexipag using oral doses of 2, 6, and 20 mg/kg/day (up to 47 times the exposure to the active metabolite at the maximum recommended human oral dose of 1600 mcg twice daily on an area under the curve [AUC] basis) during the period of organogenesis (gestation days 7 to 17). Selexipag did not cause adverse developmental effects to the fetus in this study. A slight reduction in fetal body weight was observed in parallel with a slight reduction in maternal body weight at the high dose.

Pregnant rabbits were treated with selexipag using oral doses of 3, 10, and 30 mg/kg (up to 50 times the exposure to the active metabolite at the maximum recommended human oral dose of 1600 mcg twice daily on an AUC basis) during the period of organogenesis (gestation days 6 to 18). Selexipag did not cause adverse developmental effects to the fetus in this study.

In a pre- and post-natal development study, pregnant rats were treated with selexipag from gestation day 7 through lactation day 20 at oral doses of 2, 6, and 20 mg/kg/day (up to 35 times the exposure to the active metabolite at the maximum recommended human dose of 1600 mcg twice daily on an AUC basis). Treatment with selexipag did not cause adverse developmental effects in this study at any dose.

Sildenafil. Package insert. Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc; 2023.

FUROSEMIDE

Heart Failure

Metoprolol	© C O
Carvedilol	O C O
Furosemide	O C O
Bumetanide	B
Dopamine	© C
Dobutamine	B
Norepinephrine	O C O
Hydralazine	C
Nitroglycerin	O C O
Isosorbide dinitrate	O C O
Torsemide	B
Metolazone	\bigcirc B \bigcirc



Halpern, D.G. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;73(4):457–76.

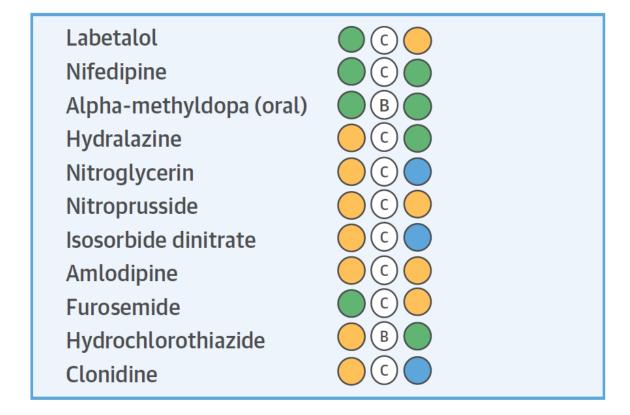
PATIENT AB

- 30-year-old female, G1P0, with history of pulmonary arterial hypertension and previous tobacco use
- Medications:
 - Ambrisentan 10 mg daily
 - Tadalafil 40 mg daily
 - Selexipag 1600 mcg twice daily
 - Furosemide 20 mg daily
 - Progesterone-only pill

Patient independently stopped

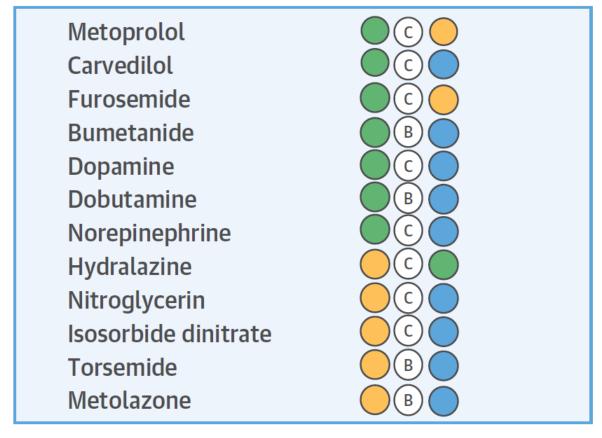
- 1. Continue tadalafil, selexipag, and furosemide
- 2. Refer to high-risk obstetric team for multi-disciplinary care
- 3. Increase surveillance of cardiovascular symptoms with frequent appointment
- 4. Increase frequency of echocardiogram
- 5. Schedule delivery with both obstetric and cardiology team at a hospital with an experienced cardiovascular team
- 6. Post-partum: discuss resumption of medication and lactation
- 7. Post-partum: discuss pregnancy and contraception

HYPERTENSION





HEART FAILURE



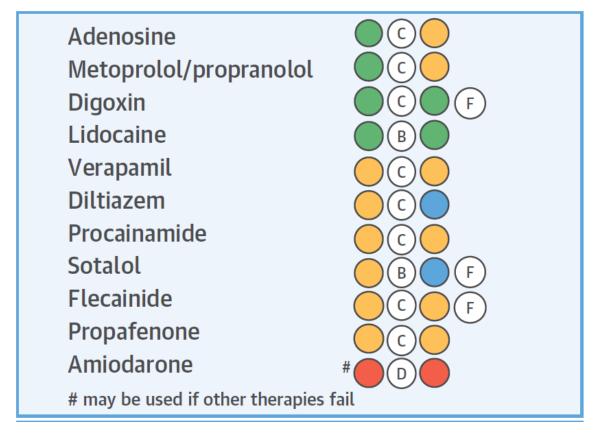


ANTICOAGULANT/ ANTIPLATELET/ THROMBOLYTIC

Anticoagulants Warfarin **Unfractionated Heparin** Enoxaparin Fondaparinux Argatroban Bivalirudin **Antiplatelets** Aspirin (low dose) Clopidogrel Prasugrel Ticagrelor **Thrombolytics** Alteplase Streptokinase



ANTIARRHYTHMICS





CHECKLIST

- 1. Discuss maternal cardiovascular risk as part of routine disease management
- 2. Educate on medications with high risk for fetal harm
- 3. Discuss effective options for contraception
- 4. Encourage open communication regarding family planning
- 5. Evaluate medication use pre-conception
- 6. Eliminate nonessential medications and discourage self- medication
- 7. Minimize exposure to harmful medication
- 8. Adjust medication doses to optimize health and reduce risk
- 9. Involve multi-disciplinary team collaboration pre-conception and during pregnancy
- 10. Frequently monitor CVD patients during pregnancy
- 11. Coordinate team-based care: determine timing and mode of delivery at a tertiary care center



APPENDIX

- 1. WHO Maternal Cardiovascular Risk Classifications
- 2. Tabular form of hemodynamic changes in pregnancy
- 3. Approach to Contraceptive Use in Women with cardiovascular disease
- 4. Properties of Various Contraceptive Options



MATERNAL CARDIOVASCULAR RISK CLASSIFICATION

Supplemental Table 2: WHO Classification of Maternal Cardiovascular Risk¹⁵ Modified from Balci et al¹⁶ with permission from the BMJ Publishing Group Ltd. Copyright ©2014, BMJ Publishing Group Ltd and the British Cardiovascular Society. Modified from Thorne et al¹⁷ with permission from the BMJ Publishing Group Ltd. Copyright ©2006, BMJ Publishing Group Ltd and the British Cardiovascular Society. Reprinted from Canobbio et al.¹⁸ Copyright ©2017 American Heart Association, Inc.

WHO Pregnancy Risk Category	Risk Description	Maternal Risk Factors				
1	No detectable increase in maternal	Uncomplicated small/mild pulmonary stenosis, PDA, mitral valve prolapse				
	mortality and no/mild increase in morbidity risk	Successfully repaired simple lesions (ASD, VSD, PDA, anomalous pulmonary venous drainage)				
		Atrial or ventricular ectopic beats, isolated				
II	Small increase in maternal mortality and	If otherwise well and uncomplicated:				
moderate increase in mo	moderate increase in morbidity risk	Unoperated ASD, VSD				
		Repaired TOF				
		Most arrhythmias				



MATERNAL CARDIOVASCULAR RISK CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

WHO Pregnancy Risk Category	Risk Description	Maternal Risk Factors				
11–111	Moderate increase in maternal mortality	Mild LV impairment				
	morbidity risk	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy				
		Native or tissue valvular disease (not considered risk category I or IV)				
		Marfan syndrome without aortic dilation				
		Aortic dilation <45 mm in bicuspid aortic valve aortopathy				
		Repaired coarctation				
III	Significantly increased maternal mortality or severe morbidity risk. Expert counseling required. In the event of pregnancy, intensive specialist cardiac and obstetric monitoring needed throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium.	Mechanical valve				
		Systemic RV				
		Fontan circulation				
		Cyanotic heart disease (unrepaired)				
		Other complex CHD				
		Aortic dilation 40–45 mm in Marfan syndrome				
		Aortic dilation 45–50 mm in bicuspid aortic valve aortopathy				

MATERNAL CARDIOVASCULAR RISK CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

WHO Pregnancy Risk Category	Risk Description	Maternal Risk Factors			
IV	Extremely high maternal mortality or severe morbidity risk. Pregnancy is contraindicated. In the event of pregnancy, termination should be discussed. If pregnancy continues, care should follow class III recommendations.	Pulmonary arterial hypertension (of any cause)			
		Severe systemic ventricular dysfunction (LV ejection fraction <30%, NYHA class III-IV)			
		Previous peripartum cardiomyopathy with any residual impairment of LV function			
		Severe mitral stenosis, severe symptomatic aortic stenosis			
		Aortic dilation >45 mm in Marfan syndrome			
	Aortic dilation >50 mm in bicuspid aortic valve aortopathy				
	Native severe coarctation				

AS indicates aortic stenosis; ASD, atrial septal defect; CHD, congenital heart disease; LV, left ventricular; NYHA, New York Heart Association; PDA, patent ductus arteriosus; RV, right ventricle; TOF, tetralogy of Fallot; VSD, ventricular septal defect; and WHO, World Health Organization.



HEMODYNAMIC CHANGES IN PREGNANCY

Supplemental Table 1: Physiologic Changes Throughout Normal Pregnancy Compared to Pre-Pregnancy State. $^{13,\,14}$

	1 st Trimester	2 nd Trimester	3 rd Trimester	During Labor	Early Postpartum (<3 Months)	Late Postpartum (3-6 Months)
Cardiac Output	1	1	1	1	\Rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow
Blood Pressure	1	1	1	1	1	\Leftrightarrow
Heart Rate	1	1	1	1	1	\Leftrightarrow
Systemic Vascular Resistance	1	1	1	1	1	\leftrightarrow

APPROACH TO CONTRACEPTION USE IN WOMEN IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Condition	Subcondition	IUD	Implant	DMPA	POP	СНС
DVT/PE	Remote, not receiving anticoagulation	R	R	R	R	U
	Acute	R	R	R	R	U
	History, receiving ≥3 mo of anticoagulation	R	R	R	R	U
	Family history (first-degree relative)	R	R	R	R	R
High blood pressure in pregnancy	History in prior pregnancy	R	R	R	R	R
Hypertension	Controlled	R	R	R	R	U
	SBP >140-159 mm Hg, DBP >90-99 mm Hg	R	R	R	R	U
	SBP >160 mm Hg, DBP >100 mm Hg	R	R	U	R	U
	Vascular disease	R	R	U	R	U
IHD	Current	Variable depending on whether IHD is present before vs after contraception. Copper IUD safe. For progesterone-IUD, implants, DMPA, and POP, risk likely outweighs benefit. CHC should be avoided.				
Multiple cardiovascular risk factors	Tobacco, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, older age, dyslipidemia	R	R	U	R	U
PPCM	Normal/mild systolic dysfunction	R	R	R	R	U
	Moderate to severe systolic dysfunction	R	R	R	R	U
Valvular heart disease	Uncomplicated	R	R	R	R	R
	Complicated*	R	R	R	R	U

CHC indicates combined hormonal contraception; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DMPA, depot medroxyprogesterone acetate; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DVT, deep venous thrombosis; IHD, ischemic heart disease; IUD, intrauterine device; PE, pulmonary embolism; POP, progestin-only pill; PPCM, peripartum cardiomyopathy; R, reasonable (benefit outweighs risk); SBP, systolic blood pressure; and U, unreasonable (risk outweighs benefit).



^{*}Defined as a condition that places the woman at an increased risk as a result of pregnancy. Adapted from Curtis et al.¹⁴¹

PROPERTIES OF VARIOUS CONTRACEPTIVE OPTIONS

Table 2 The percentage of women who will experience an unplanned pregnancy within the first year of use of a given contraceptive method (typical and optimal usage), together with the percentage of continued use after 1 year, the risk of thrombosis and of infection associated with the method's use. Modified from 13,14

Group	Contraceptive type	Failure (typical, %)	Failure (optimal, %)	Continued use at 1 year (%)	Thrombosis risk	Infection risk
Highly effective (<1%) Reversible	Implant IUCD	0.05 0.2 (LNG) 0.8 (Copper)	0.05 0.2 0.6	84 80 78	May be slightly increased risk No increased risk	Minimal Transient bacteraemia at insertion, increased PID
Highly effective (<1%) Irreversible	Vasectomy Tubal Occlusion	0.15 0.5 (abdominal, laparoscopic, or hysteroscopic)	0.1 0.5	100 100	No increased risk No increased risk	Post-operative Post-operative
Moderately effective (3–12%)	Injectable	Depo-Provera 3% Combined injectable 3%	Depo-Provera 0.3% Combined injectable 0.05%	56	Depo-provera: increased risk Combined injectable: increased risk	Minimal, but no protection from PID
	Combined oral contraceptive	8	0.3	68	Increased risk	Minimal, but no protection from PID
	Desogestrel containing progesterone-only pill	8	0.3		No increased risk	Minimal, but no protection from PID
	Patch	8	0.3	68	Increased risk	Minimal, but no protection from PID
	Ring	8	0.3	68	Increased risk	Minimal, but no protection from PID
Poorly effective	Male Condom	15	2	53	No increased risk	Reduced PID
(18-28%)	Diaphragm	16	6	57	No increased risk	Reduced PID
	Female Condom	21	5	49	No increased risk	Reduced PID
	Sponge	16–32 (nulliparous vs. parous)	9–20 (nulliparous vs. parous)	46–57 (parous vs. nulliparous)	No increased risk	No protection from PID
	Safe Period	25	3-5	51	No increased risk	No protection from PID
	Withdrawal	27	4	43	No increased risk	No protection from PID
	Spermicide	29	18	42	No increased risk	No protection from PID
No contraception		85	85			



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