



The information provided below is on fentanyl use as prescribed by a health care provider

What is Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is an opioid pain medication.

Using Fentanyl During Pregnancy

- If you are using fentanyl and are planning a pregnancy or are pregnant, please contact your healthcare provider to discuss continued use or alternative treatment options.
- Do NOT suddenly using fentanyl as it can lead to:
 - withdrawal
 - fetal distress,
 - preterm birth (before 37 weeks of pregnancy)
 - miscarriage.



Effects on Pregnancy and the Baby

Most people using opioids for short term, have healthy pregnancies. But there are some reported risks with longer use. Studies have found increased risks of:

- Loss of a baby before or during delivery
- Low birth weight, preterm delivery, growth restriction
- It is not clear if opioids increase the risk for birth defects.

Withdrawal in Babies

50-75% of infants exposed to opioids during pregnancy or close to time of birth, develop withdrawal symptoms, including:

- persistent crying, difficulty sleeping, increased muscle tone
- feeding difficulties, vomiting
- sweating, fever.

Infants exposed to opioids during the last few weeks of pregnancy should be monitored for symptoms of withdrawal.

Using Fentanyl During Breastfeeding

- The amount of fentanyl that passes into breastmilk is small.
- Short-term use (a few days) is not expected to be a concern.
- Infants should be watched for signs of increased sleepiness, difficulty feeding, breathing difficulties, or limpness.
- If any of these symptoms occur a healthcare provider should be contacted immediately.
- In case of emergency, please go to the emergency room or call 911.



For more information visit <https://firstexposure.ca/fentanyl-in-pregnancy-and-lactation/> or scan the QR code.



This information does not replace the medical care and advice from your healthcare provider. Please contact your healthcare provider for any questions you may have.