



Project Summary

Medication use during pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes in women with chronic inflammatory disease

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Very little is often known about the effects of medications taken during pregnancy as this research is difficult to carry out. This study aims to get a better understanding of how often medication is prescribed to women for the most common rheumatic conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease/arthritis and spondyloarthritis) in the period before, during and after pregnancy. It will also look at patient characteristics and pregnancy outcomes (live births, stillbirths and pregnancy losses).

The study will use anonymised general practice records. It will compare patient characteristics and pregnancy outcomes in a group of pregnant women with one of these diseases to a group of pregnant women without these diseases. For women with one of the diseases it will also look at the prescriptions they receive in the period surrounding pregnancy and note any changes in prescribing.

This study has the benefit of being specific to prescribing and disease management in the UK and will be one of the largest conducted so far. It will provide further information for women and their doctors to help in understanding how best to manage these diseases in order to have the best chance of healthy pregnancy outcomes.