

Reproductive Health Guidelines

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Veterinary medicine personnel have increased risk of potential hazards when pregnant. The first trimester is a critical period of development, so once pregnancy has been detected the following should be completed as soon as possible:

- Contact your OB/GYN medical provider to get recommendations for minimizing exposure to hazards.
- Return with a signed statement from your medical provider with defined permitted limits of exposure to potential hazards during your pregnancy and submit to Supervisor/Academic Affairs Dean of Students.
- Consult the *Reproductive Health Guidelines* (Guide IH-040) issued by UT Environmental Health & Safety; <https://ehs.utk.edu/index.php/table-of-policies-plans-procedures-guides/reproductive-health-guidelines/>.

Recommendations for protecting the reproductive health of individuals from occupational exposure to chemical, biological, radioactive, and other substances can be summarized into the following*:

- Whenever possible, eliminate exposure to the hazardous material or substitute with a less hazardous alternative.
- Use effective engineering controls when available.
- Wear personal protective equipment as recommended (may include face shields, goggles, gloves, laboratory coats/smocks, respiratory protection, etc.).
- Chemical exposures may occur through multiple portals of entry into the body, including inhalation, ingestion, injection, and skin/mucous membrane absorption. A list of potential hazardous chemicals can be found at <https://ehs.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/IH-040-Reproductive-Health-Guide-AppB-Chem-List.pdf>. For questions regarding chemical exposure and pregnancy, contact Environmental Health and Safety at (865) 974-1153 or utiasafety@utk.edu.
- Biological hazards include infectious agents (bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa), toxins, blood/tissues/body fluids from humans & animals, diagnostic or environmental samples. Exposures to biohazards can be from mucous membrane/skin contact, ingestion, injection, or inhalation. For a list of potential agents known to cause reproductive harm, see <https://ehs.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/IH-040-Reproductive-Health-Guide-AppC-Bio-List.pdf>. For questions regarding biological exposures and pregnancy, contact the Biosafety Office at (865) 974-1938 or utbiosafety@utk.edu.
- Radiological hazards may be found in labs, medical facilities, and some analytical equipment. Radiological sources should be marked with warning/caution statements. Exposures to radiological sources may come from direct contact with materials or indirect exposures via proximity to radiation sources. A Radiation Safety pregnancy declaration form may be found at <http://radiationsafety.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2013/04/Pregnancy-Declaration-Form.pdf>. For questions regarding radiological exposure, please contact the Radiation Safety office at (865) 974-5580 or radiationsafety@utk.edu.

* Always check with your Primary Care Provider for specific guidance based on your individual health needs.

Specific considerations for clinical areas exist and include the following**:

Oncology:

- Chemotherapy agents and other medications (see **Appendix A: Medication to Avoid during Pregnancy**)
- Radiological agents
- Radiation-emitting equipment

Anesthesia:

- Anesthetic gases
- Medication/chemical exposure (various)

Radiology:

- Radiological agents
- Radiation-emitting equipment

Pathology:

- Infectious agents (e.g., *Brucella* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Toxoplasma gondii*)
- Chemical exposure (formalin/formaldehyde)

Large Animal:

- Trauma
- Prostanoids
- Abortifacients
- Medication/chemical exposure (various)
- Infectious agents (e.g., *Brucella* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*)

Small Animal:

- Medication/chemical exposure (various)
- Anesthetic gases
- Infectious agents (e.g., *Brucella* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Toxoplasma gondii*)

Exotics:

- Anesthetic gases
- Medication/chemical exposure (various)
- Infectious agents (e.g., *Chlamydia psittaci*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, *Salmonella* spp., etc.)

Therigenology:

- Prostanoids
- Abortifacients
- Medication/chemical exposure (various)
- Infectious agents (e.g., *Brucella* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Toxoplasma gondii*)

**Lists are not exhaustive.

Additional Resources:

- Reproductive Consultation Form: <https://ehs.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/IH-040-Reproductive-Health-Guide-AppA-Consult-Form.pdf>.
- AVMA Occupational Risk for Pregnant Workers: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Veterinary-Facility-Occupational-Risks-for-Pregnant-Workers.aspx>

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Appendix A: Medication to Avoid during Pregnancy

DRUG NAME	PRECAUTIONS/PROTECTION
Apoquel® (Oclacitinib)	Wash hands immediately after handling. Pregnancy studies have not been completed, possible pregnancy complications.
Azathioprine (Imuran®)	Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage. Do not handle while pregnant. Could cause birth defects and increase the risk of spontaneous abortion, and infertility.
Benzodiazepines	Teratogenic effects have been observed with some benzodiazepines; however, additional studies are needed.
Cabergoline (Dostinex®)	Pregnant and nursing women should be careful when handling this drug as it can cause serious birth defects and miscarriage.
Chemotherapy Drugs	Follow hazardous drugs precautions or try to avoid handling. Could cause birth defects and increase the risk of spontaneous abortion, and infertility.
Chloramphenicol (Chloromycetin®)	Use appropriate precautions for receiving, handling, administration, and disposal. Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage. Try to avoid in pregnancy.
Equidone® (Domperidone)	Pregnant or nursing women should use caution when handling this medication. Could potentially cause preterm delivery.
Estrumate® (Cloprostenol Sodium)	Pregnant women, asthmatics or other persons with bronchial diseases should handle this product with extreme caution.
Ketoconazole (Nizoral®)	Use caution if you must handle or try to avoid handling. Could cause birth defects.
Leflunomide (Arava®)	Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage. Could cause birth defects.
Methimazole (Tapazole®)	Use appropriate precautions for receiving, handling, administration, and disposal. Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage. Could cause birth defects.
Misoprostol (Cytotec®)	Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage. Avoid handling medication while pregnant; could cause spontaneous abortion.
Mycophenolate (CellCept®, Cellmune®, Mycept®, Myfortic®)	Use appropriate precautions for receiving, handling, administration, and disposal. Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage. Could cause birth defects and increase the risk of spontaneous abortion, birth defects, and infertility.
Onsior® (Robenacoxib)	The manufacturer recommends washing hands after contact with tablets; pregnant women who are near term should wear gloves when handling the drug.
Oxytocin (Pitocin®)	Use caution when handling. Drug is used to induce labor in animals.
Pentobarbital (Fatal Plus®)	Possible fetal abnormalities.
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Regumate® (Altenogest)	Exposure can lead to prolongation of pregnancy and infertility.
Ventipulmum® (clenbuterol)	Use with caution in pregnancy; can possibly induce abortion or prevent labor.
Apomorphine	Use appropriate precautions for receiving, handling, administration, and disposal. Gloves (single) should be worn during receiving, unpacking, and placing in storage.