



# Topamax Warning – Increased Risk of Cleft Palate in Newborns

Written On April 11, 2011 By [Bob Kraft](#)

Topamax is a prescription drug originally approved by the FDA in 1996 to treat epilepsy. The generic name is topiramate. Topamax is manufactured by Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson.

The FDA approved Topamax for use to treat migraines in 2004 and it is often prescribed off-label for bi-polar disorder.

In March 2011 the FDA warned that an increased risk of cleft lip and/or cleft palate in newborns has been associated with use of Topamax by pregnant mothers. In fact, one study published in July of 2008 in the scientific journal *Neurology* cited an alarming rate of cleft lips and/or cleft palates in newborns associated with Topamax usage by pregnant women.

If you took Topamax during pregnancy and your child was born with a cleft lip or cleft palate you should talk with a lawyer about your situation.

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