

Use of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressant Zoloft during the first trimester of pregnancy can increase a child's risk of being born with serious [heart defects](#) or other [birth defects](#).



A June 2007 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* examined the risk of side effects posed by using Zoloft and other antidepressants during the first trimester of pregnancy. The study compared the risk of birth defects for pregnant women who used Zoloft to those who did not take antidepressants during their pregnancy.

The study found that Zoloft users were twice as likely to give birth to a child with certain types of heart defects, including [ventricular outflow tract obstruction defects](#) such as [hypoplastic left heart syndrome](#) and [septal defects](#), including [ventricular septal defects](#) or [atrial septal defects](#).

The study also found that Zoloft could increase the risk of other types of birth defects, including the [abdominal birth defect](#) omphalocele (born with abdominal organs sticking out of the belly button) and [cranial birth defect](#) craniosynostosis (sutures in the baby's skull fuse earlier than normal). First-trimester Zoloft users were also more likely to give birth to a child with clubfoot, anal atresia (opening to the anus is missing or blocked) or limb-reduction defects (failure of part of the arm or leg to fully form).

In addition to the heart defects and birth defects listed above, women who use Zoloft during the first trimester of pregnancy may be more likely to give birth to a baby with tetralogy of Fallot, transposition of the great arteries, coarctation of the aorta, spina bifida, cleft palate or cleft lip.

If you or a loved one used Zoloft while pregnant and gave birth to a child suffering from heart defects or other birth defects, you may qualify to file a [lawsuit](#). For a free legal consultation, contact the lawyers at Hissey Kientz, LLP by calling toll-free at 1-866-275-4454, or by filling out the [free case evaluation form](#) online.