

Drug Injury Watch: UK Drug Safety Regulator Issues New Warnings About The Use Of Depakote / Depacon / Depakene By Women During Pregnancy

Updates Information About Extent Of Serious Developmental Disorders Such As Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) As Well As Congenital Malformations And Birth Defects Like Spina Bifida

(Posted by Tom Lamb at www.DrugInjuryWatch.com on January 26, 2015)

SUMMARY: On January 22, 2015 the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a Drug Safety Alert, "Medicines related to valproate: risk of abnormal pregnancy outcomes", which has to do with these drugs:

- Depakote, Depakote CP, and Depakote ER (divalproex sodium)
- Depacon (valproate sodium)
- Depakene (valproic acid)

All of these drugs are manufactured and sold by the drug company AbbVie Inc. (formerly Abbott).

The subtitle of this MHRA warning conveys the bottom-line message plain and clear:

Children exposed in utero to valproate are at a high risk of serious developmental disorders (in up to 30-40% of cases) and/or congenital malformations (in approximately 10% of cases).

We will watch to see if there are any further Depakote / Depacon / Depakene label changes regarding autism and/or birth defects here in the US like those that are forthcoming in the UK, according the January 2015 Drug Safety Update regarding these valproate drugs.

For more about the safety issues concerning these drugs, see our [Depakote / Depakene / Depacon drug information page](#).

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Earlier articles by attorney Tom Lamb on the [Side Effects Blog](#):

- [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\) Committee Recommends Further Restrictions On Use Of Depakote / Depakene / Depacon By Women Of Childbearing Age](#)

- [Significantly Increased Risk Of Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) In Children Whose Mothers Used Depacon / Depakene / Depakote During Their Pregnancy](#)
- [Like Depakote, Stavzor Can Cause Liver Failure, Usually During First 6 Months; Children Under Age 2 Are At A Higher Risk, As Are Patients with Mitochondrial Disease](#)
- [Higher Risks Of Birth Defects Spina Bifida And Hypospadias Found To Be Dose-Related For Depacon / Depakene / Depakote / Stavzor](#)
- [Depacon / Depakene / Depakote: 400% Increased Risk Of Birth Defects Compared To Other Anti-Seizure Medications Used By Mothers With Epilepsy](#)

Attorney [Tom Lamb](#) represents people in personal injury and wrongful death cases involving unsafe prescription drugs or medication errors. The above article was posted originally on his blog, **Drug Injury Watch** – with live links and readers' Comments.
<http://www.DrugInjuryWatch.com>