

## Knowledge and Perceptions of Electronic Cigarette Use among Pregnant Women

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The association between maternal tobacco smoke exposure and restricted fetal growth has been well studied. However, the safety of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) is quite controversial among pregnant women and the public. Research on the health effects of e-cigarette use during pregnancy is limited, particularly because of the health risks and ethical considerations. However, there is concern about the effects of the nicotine on fetal health from e-cigarettes. Some women's beliefs about e-cigarettes are influenced by information that e-cigarettes may be beneficial as a way to decrease the number of tobacco cigarettes smoked. We conducted a systematic review of the literature to explore the knowledge and perceptions of e-cigarette use among pregnant women. Using pre-designated inclusion and exclusion criteria, relevant articles were located and reviewed searching PubMed, EMBASE, EBSCOhost, CINAHL Complete, and the reference lists of related articles. Full text, English language, peer-reviewed articles relevant to pregnant women's knowledge and perceptions of e-cigarettes were reviewed. Of the thirty studies, six met the inclusion criteria. The following findings were common among the studies reviewed: 1) study participants had inaccurate information regarding the amount of nicotine in e-cigarettes and the effects on the fetus; 2) e-cigarettes were perceived as safe alternatives and could be used for smoking cessation; 3) using e-cigarettes caused less negative side effects than traditional cigarettes; and 4) information obtained from the media about e-cigarettes was confusing for pregnant women. The findings support the need for healthcare providers to assess e-cigarette use among pregnant women and provide accurate information regarding e-cigarettes and the potential impact of use during pregnancy.

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