**What is the Australian Pregnancy Register?**

From previous research it is known that women with epilepsy who are taking antiepileptic medication have a slightly higher incidence than the general population of having babies with birth defects, 2-3% for the general population versus 4-6% for women with epilepsy on medication. Information from pregnancy registers is a valuable resource for the study of comparative risks and benefits of antiepileptic drugs (AED’s) in pregnancy.

The Australian Pregnancy Register (APR) is an independent project that has been running for over 16 years nationally. We are an observational register and collect information about pregnant women with epilepsy, treated and untreated to determine which AED are safest for the baby while protecting the mother from seizures.

The APR also enrolls pregnant women who are taking AED s for conditions other than epilepsy such as for control of pain and treatment of mood disorders.

The Register is supported by the Epilepsy Society of Australia, Epilepsy Action, Epilepsy Australia, sanofi aventis, UCB Pharma, Eisai, SciGen, Royal Melbourne Hospital Neuroscience Foundation, NHMRC & Novartis. The APR is affiliated with the European Register (EURAP) and has been approved by the ethics committees of major hospitals.

The APR collects information before and after the delivery on the mother’s medical and family history, social and educational background, previous pregnancies and details about her epilepsy and its treatment.

The Register follows women taking antiepileptic medications throughout their pregnancy, delivery and 12 months post-delivery. We look to identify foetal malformations, seizure control, as well as cognitive effects the children may have as a result of prenatal exposure.

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Participation is voluntary: All interviews are by phone and are conducted by a qualified research coordinator.

Eligible women are referred to us mostly by their neurologists, obstetricians, midwife, epilepsy association or themselves. We have a toll free number that participants can call from all over Australia.

This is an observational study only. We do contact the treating doctors, neurologists, obstetricians, GPs etc. for additional medical information if required and to notify them of their patient’s enrolment.

**How to enrol:**

Initially we need the woman’s name address, contact telephone number and who is referring them. It is helpful to know the duration of the pregnancy and antiepileptic medications prescribed (doses not required) but not essential. We then telephone the woman and chat about what is involved;

A series of telephone interviews (4 in total) that follows them through their pregnancy until their baby is 1 year old. We answer questions they may have and then we send out the formal information sheet and consent form, along with a return envelope. Women can enroll at any time during the pregnancy and can enroll retrospectively until their infant is 1 year old.

**To enrol ring 1800 069 722 or email** [**janet.graham@mh.org.au**](mailto:janet.graham@mh.org.au)

**For more information go to www.apr.org.au**