

Smoking during Pregnancy



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SUMMARY: *Cigarette smoke is currently the most widespread harmful substance affecting reproduction. Smoking cigarettes is risky even before the woman finds out that she is pregnant. While the prevalence of smoking during pregnancy in the Czech Republic ranges from 6 to 24%, it is assumed that even this data represents an underestimate. Smoking and its many mechanisms contribute to the development of pathological pregnancy. The rates of extra-uterine pregnancy, spontaneous miscarriage, placental abruption, placenta praevia, premature rupture of foetal membranes, and premature birth are stated to be higher among pregnant women who smoke. The incidence of pre-eclampsia is, on the other hand, lower in pregnant women who smoke. Smoking cigarettes can negatively influence the actual intrauterine development of the foetus, and has consequences of considerable importance even for the subsequent development of the child. Smoking on the part of the father adds to the increased risk of foetal damage. Smoking on the part of the mother influences the establishment and development of foetal tobacco syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, inborn errors of development, disorders of the respiratory system, increased risk of having malignant tumours during childhood, cardiovascular risks, neural damage, and behavioural disorders. Smoking on the part of mothers also has adverse effects on breastfeeding. Passive smoking on the part of a pregnant woman has a considerable negative effect on the development of the foetus.*

KEY WORDS: SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY – TOBACCO SMOKING – PREVALENCE – CONSEQUENCES OF TOBACCO SMOKING

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