

MEDICATION ERROR DURING PREGNANCY

A friend of mine is a high risk patient during pregnancy due to a cyst surgery she had when she was younger. Recently she was hospitalized and was given some medication prescription. Her husband got these medications for her at the hospital's pharmacy. The medication given to the husband happened to be from another prescription for a cancer patient (cancer medications). She took about 3 doses of it without knowing until she started having extra complications and was rushed to the ER. Fortunately for her, she was at the hospital and she did not lose the baby because the doctors did everything to revive the six month old baby and the mother even though they did not know yet the cause of the incidence. It was later found out that it was as a result of "medication error". Three months ago, she gave birth to a full grown baby with no birth defects. She did not sue the hospital but was only thankful to God for sparing their lives.

I will like to ask all of you the same question I asked myself: What do you learn from this story? Before I would take medication error especially in that type of a scenario for granted, because it would never had cross my mind that such a thing would happen.

The following precautions should be taken to avoid medication errors:

- 1) Compare any prescription with the medication, if possible asks the doctor to confirm that it is the right one.
- 2) make sure you watch out for the directions like: those medications that should be taken with an empty stomach and those that should be taken with meals.
- 3) If an antibiotic is prescribed, be sure to discuss with the physician the possibility of taking the smallest effective doses for the shortest possible time.
- 4) Always ask about the possible side effects.
- 5) Always try to take a full glass of water when taking medications to ensure that your medication goes down.
- 6) It is best to avoid medications (over-the-counter and prescribed) especially during the first two months of the baby's life because this is the period that the baby's lungs, heart and brain systems are being formed.

References:

http://www.pregnancy-info.net/meds_during_pregnancy.html