

Study Charts Flu Shot's Impact on Pregnant Women and Their Babies

Repeated flu shots weaken your body's initial response - but does it affect the baby?

***Note: Embargoed until Tuesday August 01, 2017 at 4:00 a.m. eastern**

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE



SUGGESTED TEASE	STILL TO COME, HOW THE FLU SHOT AFFECTS PREGNANT WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES. A NEW STUDY IS OFFERING SOME REASSURANCES - DETAILS NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS.
ANCHOR LEAD	<p>THIS TIME OF THE YEAR REMINDS US THAT, FOR SOME PEOPLE, GETTING THE FLU IS MORE THAN JUST AN INCONVENIENCE, IT CAN BE DANGEROUS AND EVEN DEADLY.</p> <p>PREGNANT WOMEN AND BABIES ARE AMONG THOSE AT THE GREATEST RISK FOR COMPLICATIONS FROM THE FLU.</p> <p>AND WHILE DOCTORS HAVE LONG RECOMMENDED FLU SHOTS FOR PROTECTION, A NEW STUDY IS UNDERSCORING WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT. CLARK POWELL HAS DETAILS.</p>
(PACKAGE START) -----	
CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center	(Nats - Sound) :02
Shots of Kristen feeding baby	EVEN THOUGH KRISTEN BRAUMEOLLER (BROW -mull-er) GOT PREGNANT AT THE END OF ONE FLU SEASON AND WAS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT, SHE NEVER HESITATED GETTING HER FLU SHOT. :07
Close up of baby eating	
CG: Kristen Braumoeller Gets annual flu shot	<i>"Because I have asthma, it's just something I put on my schedule every year. Around this time of year, actually."</i> :08
Shots of people getting flu shot	DOCTORS SAY NEARLY EVERYONE SHOULD GET AN ANNUAL FLU SHOT, BUT EXPERTS ADMIT THAT WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING HOW A WOMAN'S IMMUNE SYSTEM RESPONDS DURING PREGNANCY, THERE ARE STILL QUESTIONS. ¹
Shot of pregnant woman sitting	SO, RESEARCHER LISA CHRISTIAN IS FINDING ANSWERS. :12
Shot of Christian with colleague	
CG: Lisa Christian, PhD	

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<p>Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>Shot of pregnant woman walking in to hospital / getting shot</p> <p>Shot of woman getting flu shot</p> <p>Shot of Christian at computer</p> <p><i>Graphic</i></p>	<p><i>“We’re interested in looking at this, in this study, about predictors of how well women respond to the flu vaccine during pregnancy and how well they transfer their antibody levels to their baby.” :12</i></p> <p>AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, RESEARCHERS FOLLOWED TWO GROUPS OF PREGNANT WOMEN - THOSE WHO GOT THE FLU SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR AND THOSE WHO DIDN'T.</p> <p>THEY FOUND THAT THOSE WHO DIDN'T GET A RECENT FLU SHOT ACTUALLY HAD A STRONGER INITIAL IMMUNE RESPONSE TO THEM. BUT.. :15</p>
<p>Lisa Christian (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Christian with colleague</p> <p>Shots of Kristen putting baby in stroller / going for a walk</p>	<p><i>“If people are vaccinated repeatedly, such as people who receive a flu vaccination every year, the peak antibody response to the vaccine becomes dampened or down-regulated over time.” :11</i></p> <p>CURIOUS TO SEE HOW THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE BABY, THEY TESTED WOMEN THROUGHOUT PREGNANCY AND AT DELIVERY.</p> <p>THE GOOD NEWS IS, WHILE REPEATED FLU SHOTS MAY IMPACT A WOMAN'S INITIAL IMMUNE RESPONSE, THIS STUDY FOUND THAT BABIES ARE STILL PROTECTED. :13</p>
<p>Lisa Christian (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shot of Kristen walking baby past camera</p> <p>Kristen Braumoeller (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shot of Kristen waking baby - low angle walking away</p>	<p><i>“The takeaway point is that the benefits to the baby were not affected in any way by women being vaccinated in the prior year.” :09</i></p> <p>GOOD NEWS NOT ONLY FOR EXPECTANT MOMS, BUT THEIR BABIES AS WELL. :03</p> <p><i>“She’s a very, very healthy girl, and we know she’s going to stay that way.” :06</i></p> <p>AT OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :03</p>
<p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<hr/> <p>IN ALL, RESEARCHERS FOLLOWED NEARLY 150 PREGNANT WOMEN.</p> <p>TO SEE HOW WELL THE FLU VACCINE HAD TRANSFERRED FROM MOM TO THE BABY, THEY TESTED BLOOD FROM THE UMBILICAL CORD AT THE TIME OF DELIVERY.</p>

SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>Study @OSUWexMed followed women to see how flu shots impact women and unborn babies. Details: http://bit.ly/2mWI65l</p> <hr/> <p>Pregnant women and babies are among those at the highest risk for complications from the flu. To protect them, doctors recommend annual flu shots, although experts aren't entirely sure how the vaccine affects a pregnant woman's immune system. A new study is shedding light on that issue - with some surprising results. http://bit.ly/2mWI65l</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Lisa Christian, PhD Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>CG: Kristen Braumoeller Gets annual flu shot</p>	<p>Christian talks about the parameters of the study: <i>"We examined 141 women. 91 had been vaccinated in the prior year and 50 had not received a vaccine in the prior year"</i></p> <p>Christian explains how often they tested volunteers: <i>"We assess them again at one month, post vaccination to look at their peak antibody titers and at the time of delivery, we collected a maternal blood sample as well as cord blood from the baby."</i></p> <p>Christian talks about the effect of repeated flu shots: <i>"We see a lower peak in terms of an antibody response. You still see clinical benefit. People should still get vaccinated but we know this effect is there."</i></p> <p>Christian says babies are still protected even with annual shots: <i>"Even if women receive vaccination year after year after year, it's not going to affect the extent to which their babies receive protection from their vaccination during pregnancy."</i></p> <hr/> <p>Kristen says she always gets an annual flu shot: <i>"Without fail. I have asthma, so it's really important to me. I know I'm at higher risk. If I get the flu, I'm at higher risk for complications."</i></p> <p>Kristen explains why she volunteered for the study: <i>"I guess I knew I needed a flu shot but I thought that I could maybe help other people as well, by doing this."</i></p>
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References

¹Effects of prior influenza virus vaccination on maternal antibody responses and cord blood antibody titers, **Vaccine, Volume 35, August, 2017.**

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