



RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN DIABETES AND PREGNANCY



Research Priorities in Diabetes and Pregnancy

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DIABETES AND PREGNANCY IN THE UK: Women's top 10 unanswered questions revealed to prioritise future research

38,000 women living with diabetes give birth in Britain each year

A new study published today, funded in partnership with the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF), reveals the top 10 unanswered questions of pregnant women living with diabetes. The work has been undertaken to ensure future is centred on the greatest needs of those affected and not on assumptions.

“Healthcare research is often led by industry and researchers. But there can be a mismatch between the research they do and the issues that are most important for people living with the condition, or those that support them,” says Dr Goher Ayman, project co-lead at The [Diabetes and Pregnancy Priority Setting Partnership \(PSP\)](#), led by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford,

Diabetes affects around 38,000 women giving birth in the UK and rates are rising. This can cause complications during pregnancy and birth, and may have long-term effects for mother and child, such as cardiovascular disease. The COVID-19 pandemic has put even greater pressure on resources and funding across the health sector.

DRWF Chief Executive Sarah Tutton has welcomed the findings: “We are pleased to have cofunded this important study which recognises the need to listen to women living with diabetes to prioritise future research which addresses their major anxieties around pregnancy.

The collaborative project involving hundreds of women, their families and healthcare professionals was launched in partnership with Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation the James Lind Alliance, Diabetes UK, JDRF the type 1 diabetes charity.

The priorities will be shared with funding bodies, research institutes and scientific societies to use them as a starting point for deciding future research projects and programme explains Dr Goher: “When these priorities are acted on, we are making sure that research will deliver the most impact and value for women and their families, closing the loop of the process.”

The ten key priorities for diabetes and pregnancy research are:

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- The funding of scientific and clinical research studies
 - The promotion of screening, wellness and other health related programmes
 - The operation of a membership Diabetes Wellness Network encouraging the sharing of knowledge and the provision of

professional advice

- The organisation of events focused on the provision of practical advice and information
- The dissemination of information on diabetes for the purpose of informing the general public on the symptoms, causes and effects of diabetes
- The provision of advisory literature to diabetes clinics for distribution to patients
- The establishment of community out-reach programmes

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