

Alexandra Fitzpatrick

Prenatal & Neonatal Psychology

Dr. Maret

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Required Question

1.

Environmental Pollutants- We do not tend to remember that many of the factors that affect our health and the outcomes of our lives are just in the air above us, the water we may drink, or even the bugs that we swat away. One of the pollutants that could be harmful is mercury which could be found in our water or food. When a woman is pregnant there is a list of things that they are strongly recommended not to consume. One of the foods is seafood and shellfish which also includes raw fish. I feel like depending on the country and area these rules differ in a way but no matter what there are still effects on the baby and their developmental stages. The effects that were found to be in regards to the brain, and were often said to make the child have developmental issues.

2.

Bacterial Infections- The next general type of teratogen is bacterial infections that includes infection such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Bacterial Vaginosis. If any of these infections is contracted during the pregnancy it can result in a miscarriage, possibility of having a low birth weight, slow development/lack of development in the brain.

3. Select and discuss another general type of teratogen. What are the mechanisms and factors which make this teratogen problematic?

Substance Abuse drugs- The 3rd type of general type of teratogen is substance abuse drugs. This sounds like it includes alcohol, caffeine, cocaine, etc, the list goes on. Thinking about this specific subject makes me think of when a child comes out going through withdrawals because they became dependent on that substance. This is extremely harmful to the child and their development. There are many but just to name one of them which is Narcotics this is one that stood out to me. I read off the withdrawal symptoms that babies who were on these drugs went through, some of these withdrawals can be a lot for a full grown adult to go through let alone a baby.

4. Discuss prenatal sensory capabilities.

5. Discuss prenatal capacities for learning.

6. Discuss prenatal emotional capabilities.

While inside of the womb

7. Given your reading in this section, comment on how this information relates to the practice of abortion. Do you see it as relevant or not? Does it modify in any way your previous view of abortion?

8. The emotional well-being of the mother is extremely important if the mom is happy the fetus does well. Throughout the course of the class we learned that anything the mother eats or drinks strongly affects the baby. With the new found pressures added from social media and the fact that you can read everything online now can play a huge factor in the outcome of the child.

