

Are Ultrasounds Dangerous?

Recent Study Claims Link Between Ultrasounds and Autism

Results from a recent study claim that there is a link between early pregnancy ultrasound exams and autism. As you can imagine, this has caused quite a buzz in the medical world and has sparked much debate about whether there is too much risk involved with performing these ultrasounds. Pregnancy Clinics, like Pathways, which offer early pregnancy ultrasounds have found themselves at the center of much of this debate. However, first trimester ultrasounds have long been used to provide valuable information to medical providers in order for them to ascertain pregnancy management plans for patients.

Current research on autism and ultrasounds has not been able to tie the cause of autism to a result of first trimester ultrasounds in its study subjects.

Dr. Susan Rutherford MD, a medical director of the Seattle PRC, stated "While hearing news of this study may initially provoke concern, further examination reassures us that at this time the possible link is so weak that there is no reason to reduce the number of first trimester ultrasounds that are performed for reasons such as discerning pregnancy location, gestational age, or viability, or for evaluations when there are possible pregnancy complications such as bleeding or pain. The chance of adverse effect due to diagnostic ultrasound performed for these or other medical indications is extremely small based on a much larger body of research than these studies." Likewise, The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine has issued an opinion which explains analysis of this study in detail and concludes that there is no reason not to perform indicated ultrasounds. A link to this article can be found on the news page of our website at www.pathways180-partners.com.

The results of the studies on which this claim is based, simply suggest that future research should consider the questions that have been raised and that pregnancy ultrasounds should only be performed by those whom are proficient in pregnancy ultrasound. Although studies continue to take place, no human adverse effects have been found. Even the current research on autism and ultrasounds has not been able to tie the cause of autism to a result of first trimester ultrasounds in its study subjects.

In conclusion Dr. Rutherford states that "first trimester ultrasound, performed in a professional manner, provides valuable information that makes a positive difference in pregnancy management. The recent report does not change our belief that such examinations are safe as far as it is possible to know based on years of study."



CLIENTS SHARE...

"They were amazing in helping me get connected with the resources that I needed"

- Jennifer, Pathways Client

"Absolutely love everyone here. Bonded really easily."

- Sharon, Pathways Client

Wonderful caring visit. The best ultrasound I've ever had!"

- Christie, Pathways Client

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 15, 2017

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Ladies Day Out

Location TBD

11:30 am

MAY 20, 2017

Run For Life

Lacamas Lake Park in Camas

8:30 am

CELEBRATING LIFE TOGETHER

Pathways had the honor of hosting a joint first birthday for all of our Baby And Me Group babies that were born in 2015. We scheduled a special time to join together as a group to celebrate the first year of life for each of these beautiful little ones over the summer at one of our Friday Baby And Me Groups.

Each B.A.M. mom was invited to participate by bringing a special treat to share with the rest of the group. Beautiful stories and memories were shared, as the ladies reminisced about their babies first year of life and their birthing experiences. The moms also shared their hopes and goals for their little ones in the year ahead. We also took time to acknowledge each baby's birthday and each mom added their baby's name and birth date to the Pathways Tree of Life in the Baby Boutique.

What better way could there be to celebrate this milestone than to spend time with those who have been there and helped support each other through their journey. We are so grateful for each of these women, and their beautiful children, for what they bring to this group and what they have accomplished in the last year. We're excited to see what God has in store for them.



AM I REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

The idea that our actions really do matter was the overall theme of the Fall Banquet this year. Our goal was to express to all of our supporters that their actions DO matter, and how important it is to live a life of permanent purpose.

In order to help demonstrate this idea, we invited one of the clinics first volunteers, Sharon, and an early client, Tymarie, to share the story of how they met through Pathways 20 years ago. When God brought Tymarie to Pathways, Sharon had the opportunity to impact Tymarie's life by supporting and mentoring her through her pregnancy. In fact, Sharon was even there when Tymarie's beautiful baby boy was born in 1996.

That beautiful baby boy is now 20 years old and attending college in preparation to go out into the world and impact the lives of countless other people. Sharon's involvement in Tymarie's life not only impacted Tymarie, but also

the life of her son, and the lives that her son will impact.

So the next time you start wondering if your contributions of time, finances, and/or prayers are making a difference at Pathways, please think of this story. You are making a difference!

Our Mission:

Pathways is a pregnancy and family resource center that empowers individuals to make healthy life-affirming choices by offering education, resources and support.