Antidepressant treatment during pregnancy: For better or worse?

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STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift

Antidepressant treatment during pregnancy: for better or worse?

Neurodevelopmental effects in rat offspring

1. Using an animal model is essential to dissociate the effects of antidepressant treatment and the underlying depression during pregnancy. (this thesis)
2. Exposing female rats with diminished serotonin transporters to early life stress is potentially a highly translational animal model of human depression; in reality, most of these female rats appear resilient to develop depressive-like behavior. (this thesis)
3. Fluoxetine antidepressant treatment during pregnancy can reduce social behaviors in the offspring, especially in offspring from healthy mothers. (this thesis)
4. Using a seminatural environment enables researchers to study the effects of antidepressant treatment during pregnancy on the full behavioral repertoire of the offspring in a more natural setting. (this thesis)
5. Having a depressive mother does not necessarily lead to negative consequences for offspring behavior. (this thesis)
6. Offspring with reduced serotonin transporter gene expression can respond differently to fluoxetine treatment and/or a depressive mother than offspring with normal expression levels. (this thesis)
7. Sex differences are found in offspring behavior after perinatal fluoxetine treatment, highlighting the importance of including both sexes in animal research. (this thesis)
8. Benefits and risks of antidepressant treatment during pregnancy should be weighed against the risks of the untreated maternal depression at the individual level.
9. ''Doing a PhD is like childbirth to the brain.'' – Unknown

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