
COSMETIC PRODUCTS AND PREGNANT WOMEN

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ARE THERE RISKS FOR THE MOTHER OR CHILD?

No scientific study has demonstrated any particular risk for pregnant women or infants related to the use of cosmetic products.

The current international cosmetic regulations thus do not define specific measures different from those applicable to all consumers with regard to evaluating the safety of cosmetic products that may be used by pregnant women. The products and their ingredients undergo very rigorous safety assessment ensuring a high level of safety for consumers and their infants.

In pregnant women, the transformation of the body may induce changes in the skin, which sometimes becomes more reactive, more sensitive and subject to the emergence of stretch marks. Exposure to the sun may also induce emergence of pigmented areas on the facial skin giving rise to a 'pregnancy mask'. It is therefore particularly recommended to moisturize the skin during pregnancy, avoid exposure to the sun and use an appropriate sunscreen product when necessary.

WHY ARE L'ORÉAL PRODUCTS SAFE?

We never compromise on the quality and safety of our products for all consumers. Our products and ingredients undergo a safety assessment implemented in compliance with the highest international standards before marketing. Assessment of the potential impact of cosmetic product ingredients on reproduction is an integral component of the assessment. We also analyze the suitability of the product category relative to target consumers. In exceptional cases, we may advise against use of a product by a pregnant woman, using specific labeling, when our analysis requires it (slimming products).

We monitor scientific developments and the position of the health authorities very closely when particular ingredients give rise to questions.

By way of an example, excessive dietary intake of vitamin A during pregnancy may be prejudicial to the correct development of the fetus. Certain regulatory agencies (France and Germany) thus rightly questioned the safety in use of vitamin A derivatives (retinol, retinyl palmitate, retinyl acetate) in facial care products for pregnant women. On the basis of all the data compiled by the cosmetic industry, the regulatory authorities concluded that the vitamin A exposure associated with use of cosmetic products containing vitamin A derivatives at the usual concentrations was not associated with any risk for pregnant women.

We market cosmetic products that may be used in all safety by pregnant women with no particular hazard for the infant.

We always advise our consumers with specific questions relating to use of our products during pregnancy to consult their physician or gynecologist for advice.

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