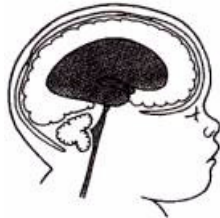


## The Influence of Narcotics & Drugs

### Drugs and Cocaine use during pregnancy.

Drug use is quite prevalent in our society. A pregnant woman who deludes herself into thinking that the use of these drugs is her private concern and only affects her, is putting her unborn child at such a high risk of many disabilities, as well as losing her child to the government agency that is watching over the abused, and neglected child.

One of the most heart wrenching and horrendous activities to watch is the newborn going through drug withdrawal. This child is going through a tortuous moment that is going to change his/her life forever.



*The brain of the unborn child*

### How does cocaine hurt an unborn child?

- **Cocaine cuts the flow of nutrients and oxygen to the fetus.** Therefore the baby is smaller, the child has a smaller head, which may indicate a smaller brain.
- **Cocaine may also cause the placenta to pull away from the wall of the uterus,** leading to bleeding. This may be fatal to the mother and fetus.
- **Children that survive a cocaine birth may be at lifelong risks of mental retardation, cerebral palsy, visual and hearing impairments.**
- **Malformations of the urinary tract** are increased possibilities.
- **Withdrawal,** is of course always the case, and the child is fragile with respect to mood, jittery irritable,
- **Startled responses** to the gentlest touch or sound.
- **Poor Response** to a human face or touch is unlikely.
- **Feeding and sleep disturbances** are a definite problem for the cocaine baby.
- **Mother –child bonding is minimal** at best, due the reaction of the cocaine,
- **Decreased the emotional development** of the child.
- **Sids** [sudden infant death syndrome contributes to the death of many cocaine babies].
- **Motor skills are slower to develop.** Fine motor skills such as drawing or playing sports lag behind in development up to 2 years.
- **Language development is poor resulting** in learning disabilities.