

*Prescription retinoid and contraception use in women in Australia:
getting the message out.*

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The AJD study highlighted the need to increase highly effective contraception coverage for women using oral retinoids. There is no clear Australian strategy for pregnancy prevention for women taking oral retinoids and other teratogens.

We worked to increase awareness of the importance of highly effective contraception. We presented study findings to clinical audiences at conferences for dermatologists and obstetricians. While communication to the general medical community was enabled by preparing online articles published by Australian Doctor, Australian Journal of Pharmacy, and European Medical Journal.

To engage the broader community, we pursued dissemination of our work via various media outlets. We wrote an article for The Conversation, which was widely republished. We also worked with the University of Sydney and New South Wales Ministry of Health media teams who prepared, published and distributed media releases to various media outlets. This resulted in various co-authors conducting interviews, and the publication of newspaper articles in The Western Weekender, the Gold Coast Bulletin, and The Age/ Sydney Morning Herald/Canberra Times. The study was discussed on television, and on radio including ABC Health Report, ABC Darwin, ABC Canberra, ABC Illawarra, ABC Newcastle and 2GB Sydney.

Our multidisciplinary team ensured the dissemination of our work to different sectors in the clinical and consumer community. We tailored our dissemination strategies, publicising our research findings by targeting and presenting our work at meetings, forums and outlets relevant to each group. The main aim was to increase

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- < Published in the Australasian Journal of Dermatology (<https://doi.org/10.1111/ajd.14294>)
- < Oral presentation at the Australasian College of Dermatologists Annual Scientific Meeting
- < Poster presentation at the Society of Obstetric Medicine Australia and New Zealand
- < Poster presentation at the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand
- < The Conversation (<https://theconversation.com/oral-retinoids-can-harm-unborn-babies-but-many-women-taking-them-for-acne-may-not-be-using-contraception-229478>)
- < Republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license by Healthed, yahoo!news, Mamamia, bounty parents, Medicine Today, The Medical Republic.
- < University of Sydney (https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2024/05/20/contraception-options-should-be-given-with-oral-retinoids-to-avo.html#:~:text=The%20rate%20of%20oral%20retinoid,use%20at%20the%20same%20time._)
- < NSW Health (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/nbmlhd/news/stories/increased-use-of-oral-retinoids-for-acne-requires-stronger-contraception-advice>)
- < Australian Doctor (<https://www.ausdoc.com.au/news/women-on-oral-retinoids-missing-out-on-contraception-aussie-study/>)
- < AJP (<https://ajp.com.au/news/concern-over-low-contraception-use-with-oral-retinoids/>)
- < European Medical Journal (https://www.emjreviews.com/dermatology/news/rising-oral-retinoid-use-among-women-lacks-contraceptive-safeguarding/?site_version=EMJ)
- < MedicalXpress (<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-05-contraception-options-oral-retinoids-unborn.pdf>)
- < Express Healthcare (<https://www.expresshealthcare.in/news/increased-awareness-and-contraception-options-recommended-to-those-using-oral-retinoids/443783/>)
- < The Western Weekender newspaper (<https://westernweekender.com.au/2024/05/women-warned-over-popular-acne-treatment/>)
- < Gold Coast Bulletin newspaper 21/5/24
- < Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, and The Canberra Times newspapers 21/6/24
- < :
- < ABC Health Report (national) (<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/healthreport/acne-oral-retinoids-pregnancy/103891628>)
- < ABC Darwin
- < ABC Canberra
- < 2GB
- < ABC RN drive
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