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Office of Science
Center for Tobacco products
Food and Drug Administration

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Re. Submission to the FDA Tobacco product Scientific Committee for Approval of Ten Snus Brands as Modified Tobacco Products by Swedish Match Tobacco Company.

Swedish population based studies show that use of Swedish type snuff during pregnancy is associated with increased risks of preterm birth (both <32 weeks and 32-36 weeks), poor fetal growth, stillbirth, neonatal apneas and oral cleft malformations in the infant.

In women who stop using snuff before or very early in pregnancy these risks are no longer observed, which implies that the association between snuff use and pregnancy complications is most probably causal. The risks associated with snuff use are of the same magnitude as those associated with smoking, with the exception of poor fetal growth. Snuff use has also, as opposed to smoking, been associated with early preeclampsia, a severe pregnancy complication both for the mother and the infant. Snuff use among adolescents has also been strongly linked to smoking debut later in adolescence.

In the light of present knowledge, the Swedish Paediatric Society emphasizes that the risk with snuff use during pregnancy and in adolescence are considerable, and strongly advise that all young people should avoid using snuff and that all women (also smokers) should refrain from snuff use during pregnancy.

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References

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2. Baba S, Wikström AK, Stephansson O, Cnattingius S. Influence of snuff and smoking habits in early pregnancy on risks for stillbirth and early neonatal mortality. *Nicotine Tob Res*. 2014 Jan;16(1):78-83.
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