



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Diagnostic Terms and Criteria

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is not a diagnosis. FASD is an umbrella term used to describe a range of disabilities caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Here are some terms that are commonly used when talking about the diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The criteria are those used across Canada.

1. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)

1. Information showing the birth mother drank during pregnancy
2. Characteristic facial features
3. Below normal weight, height and small head
4. Problems with learning and /or problems with behaviour

2. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) without Confirmed Maternal Exposure

Sometimes the fact that the mother drank during the pregnancy cannot be proven but there is good reason to believe she did. If the other 3 characteristics for FAS are present then the diagnosis of FAS without confirmed maternal exposure can be made.

3. Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS)

1. Information showing the birth mother drank during pregnancy and two out of three of the following characteristics:
2. Some of the characteristic facial features found in FAS are present.
3. 'Much' below normal weight, height and small head
4. Problems with learning and/or problems with behaviour

4. Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND)

1. Information showing the birth mother drank during pregnancy
2. Problems with learning and/or problems with behaviour

5. Alcohol Related Birth Defects (ARBD)

1. Information showing the birth mother drank during pregnancy
2. One or more birth defects (for example defects in the development of the heart, liver, bone, kidney, vision or hearing systems).

A term often used is **Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE)**. This is a term that is not used in diagnosis anymore and is being replaced by pFAS, ARND, and ARBD.

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