

[Corrigan JG, Strauss MB \(1936\)](#). The prevention of hypochromic anaemia in pregnancy. JAMA 106:1088-1090.

### Key passages

## THE PREVENTION OF HYPOCHROMIC ANEMIA IN PREGNANCY

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### METHODS

The 200 normal pregnant women studied presented themselves for routine care in the antepartum clinic when they were from three to seven months pregnant, the average being 162 days. On arrival, each patient was assigned a number in order. Blood for examination was withdrawn without stasis from an antecubital vein, and a careful dietary history was taken. Every woman was given a bottle containing 100 coated tablets, with instructions to take one tablet after each meal and to return the bottle and unused tablets at the next visit to the clinic. At all subsequent visits a fresh bottle of 100 tablets was given the patient. Unknown to her, the number of tablets remaining unused at each visit was counted and from these data the actual amount of medication taken was calculated. Patients who had been assigned odd numbers received tablets containing 0.2 Gm. (3 grains) of ferrous sulfate; patients with even numbers received tablets that were identical in appearance and size but contained lactose and no ferrous sulfate.<sup>18</sup> Women who took less than one of the prescribed three tablets daily were excluded from the two series, as were also those in whom sepsis or hemorrhage developed, whether during gestation, parturition or the puerperium. The average daily intake of iron of the treated group was 0.5 Gm. (7½ grains) of ferrous sulfate.

