

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

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Bayer launches periconceptional iron, folic acid, multiple-micronutrient supplement in Egypt

Bayer Egypt held a press conference to launch Elevit, a periconceptional pharmaceutical supplement that contains a combination of folic acid, vitamins, minerals, and trace elements to support healthy baby development during the early stages of pregnancy.

"Data presented show that at least 3.3 million children under five years of age die from birth defects each year, and an estimated 3.2 million of those who survive may be disabled for life," said Mohamed Montaz, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the Kasr Al Aini Fetal Medicine Unit of Cairo University's Faculty of Medicine, adding, "the causes of birth defects are divided into four broad categories: genetics, environmental, multifactorial, and unknown. Most birth defects therefore are thought to have a multifactorial inheritance resulting from interactions between genes and environmental factors which are mostly unknown."

"Mineral and vitamin deficiencies can lead to birth defects, which are described by the World Health Organisation as be-



ing a morphological, functional, biochemical, or molecular defect that may develop in the embryo and foetus from conception until birth, and be present at birth, whether detected at that time or not," Montaz added.

"According to a review published by Cochrane, a global independent network of researchers and healthcare professionals, supplementation with multiple micronutrients containing iron and folic acid during pregnancy significantly improves pregnancy outcomes, as many women are deficient in nutrients and micronutrients which are essential for good health," said Cherifa Aboul Fettouh, founder and CEO of Envision Foundation and Nutrition

Consultant at the Women Health Centre, adding, "the review assessed the impact of supplementation with multiple micronutrients in over 137,000 pregnant women and demonstrated that multiple micronutrients with iron and folic acid supplementation, versus supplementation iron, with or without folic acid, showed a 12% reduction in the risk of low birthweight, a 10% reduction in the risk of small-for-gestational age births, and a 9% reduction in the risk of stillbirth."

"Nutritional demands increase by up to 150% during pregnancy, and women are at a higher risk of becoming more deficient, potentially impacting their own health and that of their offspring," Aboul Fettouh added.