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Aspirin tested for avoiding miscarriage

BUFFALO, N.Y., Feb. 23 (UPI) -- A U.S. clinical trial has begun to test whether aspirin can improve a woman's chances of becoming pregnant and of maintaining a pregnancy to term.

The trial is aimed at women who have miscarried a pregnancy in the past year, according to researchers at the University at Buffalo and the University of Utah.

"In women who have had their first miscarriage, the reasons for losing that pregnancy are in many instances unknown," said principal investigator Jean Wactawski-Wende, a UB associate professor.

"These women generally are advised to try to get pregnant again, but healthcare providers can offer limited assistance on any specific actions to take to improve their next pregnancy outcome -- if aspirin can help some women become pregnant or maintain a health pregnancy, it will be a critically important finding."

Aspirin is an anti-coagulant and an anti-inflammatory agent, it may aid in implantation of the egg in the uterine wall, and it has potential for producing a positive effect on blood flow to the placenta, according to Wactawski-Wende. It may also aid in reducing pre-eclampsia.

Some 1,600 will take 400 micrograms of folic acid -- a B vitamin shown to reduce the chance of certain birth defects if started early -- plus either an 80 milligram aspirin pill or a placebo pill daily.

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