

Early vaccinations not linked to celiac disease in sweden

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Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

Early vaccinations do not seem to influence the risk of celiac disease among infants, nor do changes in the vaccination program explain the celiac disease epidemic, according to a Swedish study published online June 25 in *Pediatrics*.

(HealthDay) -- Early vaccinations do not seem to influence the risk of celiac disease (CD) among infants, nor do changes in the vaccination program explain the CD epidemic, according to a Swedish study published online June 25 in *Pediatrics*.

To investigate whether changes in the national Swedish [vaccination program](#) coincided with changes in the incidence of CD in infants, Anna Myléus, Ph.D., M.D., from Umeå University in Sweden, and colleagues analyzed data from the National Swedish Childhood [Celiac Disease Register](#) and performed a population-based incident case-referent study of infants. Questionnaires and child health clinic records were used to obtain exposure information. The responses to the following vaccines

were examined: diphtheria/tetanus, pertussis (acellular), polio (inactivated), *Haemophilus influenza* type b (conjugated), measles/mumps/rubella, and live attenuated bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG; given to children with increased tuberculosis risk).

The researchers found that the introduction of the pertussis vaccine coincided in time with decreasing CD incidence rates, but there was no association seen between CD and vaccination against pertussis (odds ratio, 0.91; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.60 to 1.4), *Haemophilus influenza* type b, or measles/mumps/rubella. BCG correlated with decreased risk for CD (adjusted odds ratio, 0.54), but discontinuation of general BCG vaccination had no impact on the cumulative incidence of CD at age 15 years.

"The Swedish epidemic of CD is not fully understood, and changes in the vaccination program or coverage do not contribute to the explanation," the authors write. "We found no epidemiologic evidence that the immunologic response to [vaccinations](#) increases CD risk."

[Abstract](#)

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