

# Review: Coffee in pregnancy tied to childhood leukemia risk

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(HealthDay)—Maternal coffee consumption during pregnancy is associated with increased risk of childhood acute leukemia (AL), according to a meta-analysis published in the February issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Jian Cheng, from Anhui Medical University in China, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to examine the correlation between maternal coffee consumption during pregnancy and [childhood AL](#), including [acute lymphoblastic leukemia](#) (ALL) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Included studies reported the odds ratios for childhood AL with respect to maternal coffee drinking in pregnancy.

Based on meta-analysis of seven studies, the researchers found that the combined odds ratio relating to the relationship of maternal coffee

consumption during pregnancy and childhood AL was 1.22 for ever drinkers; 1.16 for low to moderate-level drinkers; and 1.72 for high-level drinkers, compared with non/lowest drinkers. Maternal coffee consumption (high-level drinkers versus non/lowest drinkers) was statistically significantly associated with childhood ALL and AML (odds ratios, 1.65 and 1.58, respectively). There was a linear dose-response relationship for coffee consumption and childhood AL (P for nonlinearity = 0.68), including childhood ALL and AML.

"The findings of the meta-analysis suggest that maternal [coffee consumption](#) during pregnancy may increase the risk of childhood AL," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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