

# Risk of certain adverse outcomes up with endoscopy in pregnancy

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(HealthDay)—Endoscopy during pregnancy is associated with increased

risk of preterm birth or small for gestational age, according to a study published in the February issue of *Gastroenterology*.

Jonas F. Ludvigsson, M.D., Ph.D., from the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, and colleagues conducted a nationwide population-based cohort study linking data from the Swedish Medical Birth Registry and the Swedish Patient Registry. A total of 3,052 pregnancies exposed to endoscopy were identified (2,025 upper endoscopies, 1,109 lower endoscopies, and 58 endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatographies); pregnancy outcomes were compared with 1,589,173 unexposed pregnancies.

The researchers observed a significantly [increased risk](#) of preterm birth (adjusted relative risk [ARR], 1.54; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 1.36 to 1.75) or small for [gestational age](#) (ARR, 1.3; 95 percent CI, 1.07 to 1.57) with exposure to any endoscopy, but no significantly increased risk of congenital malformation (ARR, 1; 95 percent CI, 0.83 to 1.2) or stillbirth (ARR, 1.45; 95 percent CI, 0.87 to 2.4). For women with endoscopy, none of the stillbirths occurred less than two weeks after endoscopy. The ARRs were not dependent on trimester.

"In a nationwide population-based cohort study, we found [endoscopy](#) during pregnancy to be associated with increased risk of [preterm birth](#) or small for gestational age, but not of congenital malformation or stillbirth," the authors write. "However, these risks are small and likely due to intrafamilial factors or disease activity."

**More information:** [Full Text](#)

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