

Study examines 'small for gestational age' across European countries

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A new study questions the use of common references for assessing 'small for gestational age' (SGA) in very preterm infants across Europe. SGA describes a baby who is smaller than the usual amount for the number of weeks of pregnancy.

In the study, investigators generated a common European reference for determining SGA as well as country-specific references for 11 participating countries using the countries' average birthweights at term.

When using the common European reference, SGA in very [preterm infants](#) was more prevalent in countries with low term birth weight than in countries with high term birth weight.

"Our study shows that birthweight in the general population has a strong impact on reference percentiles for very preterm gestations. To effectively benchmark outcomes for small for gestational very preterm [infants](#) across Europe, references should be adapted to each population," said Dr. Jennifer Zeitlin, lead author of the *Acta Paediatrica* study.

More information: Jennifer Zeitlin et al, Variation in term birth weight across European countries affects the prevalence of small for gestational age among very preterm infants, *Acta Paediatrica* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/apa.13899](https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.13899)

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