

High BP seen at school age for extreme preterm infants

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(HealthDay)—Both overweight and normal-weight children who were

born as extreme preterm (EPT) infants are at risk for high blood pressure (BP) and hypertension, according to a study published in the August issue of *Pediatrics*.

Betty R. Vohr, M.D., from Brown University in Providence, R.I., and colleagues evaluated rates of high BP (≥ 90 th percentile) and [hypertension](#) (BP ≥ 95 th percentile) and associated risk factors among 379 EPT infants at 6 to 7 years of age.

The researchers found that 20.6 percent of study participants had systolic high BP, 10.8 percent had [systolic hypertension](#), 21.4 percent had diastolic high BP, and 11.4 percent had diastolic hypertension. Higher rates of body mass index (BMI), triceps skinfolds >85 th percentile, and waist circumference >90 th percentile were seen in children with systolic high BP. Weight gain velocity from 18 months to school age (relative risk [RR], 1.36) and maternal gestational diabetes (MGD; RR, 2.04) predicted systolic and either systolic or diastolic high BP (RR, 1.27 and 1.67, respectively). Prevalence of systolic and diastolic high BP was 17 and 19 percent, respectively, among children with BMI

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