

Breastfeeding for more than six months associated with smaller maternal waist circumference

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Breastfeeding for more than 6 months was found to be independently associated with smaller waist circumference in the decade after delivery among women in the POUCHmoms Study. Pregnancy contributes to an accumulation of abdominal adiposity, which is an indicator of cardiometabolic dysfunction in later life. The complete findings regarding the relationship between breastfeeding duration and maternal central adiposity are reported in an article published in *Journal of Women's Health*.

A total of 678 women from the Pregnancy Outcomes and Community Health (POUCH) cohort participated in the POUCHmoms Study 7-15 years after delivery. The researchers assessed the relationship between waist circumference measured at follow-up and self-reported history of [breastfeeding](#) duration. Propensity score approaches were incorporated into the study to account for systematic differences between women who did and did not breastfeed. The article, entitled "Breastfeeding Greater than Six Months is Associated with Smaller Maternal Waist Circumference Up to One Decade After Delivery" is co-authored by Gabrielle G. Snyder, MPH and colleagues from the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University (East Lansing).

"This study provides important new information about the potential benefits of breastfeeding for more than 6 months for [maternal health](#), specifically less central adiposity as measured by [waist circumference](#)," states Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Women's Health* and Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA. "The novel use of propensity score methods enabled the researchers to minimize the

possibility of bias in the likelihood of breastfeeding due to overall healthier lifestyles. Additional analyses that consider lifetime duration of breastfeeding are proposed in order to advance understanding of the cumulative effect of breastfeeding on maternal central adiposity."

More information: Gabrielle G. Snyder et al, Breastfeeding Greater Than 6 Months Is Associated with Smaller Maternal Waist Circumference Up to One Decade After Delivery, *Journal of Women's Health* (2018). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2018.7393](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2018.7393)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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