

Baby-wearing products lead to higher risk of injury, hospitalizations in children under age 1

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Baby-wearing products are an increasingly popular way to carry a young child in a sling, soft carrier or other type of device, but new research

suggests that they can pose a higher risk of injury to children under age 1.

The study abstract, "Baby Wearing Injuries Presenting to Emergency Departments, 2011-2020: A Dangerous Fashion Trend,"—presented during the virtual American Academy of Pediatrics 2021 National Conference & Exhibition—shows that [young children](#) are not only more likely to sustain injury related to baby wearing but have a higher frequency of being hospitalized after the injury.

"The most precious thing a parent will ever wear is their child," said author CPT Samantha Rowe, MD, MC, USA. "But like when buying a new pair of shoes, parents must be educated on the proper sizing, selection and wear of baby carriers to prevent injury to themselves and their child."

Baby-wearing, also known as baby carrying, is a common form of attachment parenting that dates back to prehistoric times. Over the last decade, baby-wearing has demonstrated many benefits, including improved success with breastfeeding, improved infant to parent bonding, and improved attentiveness by fathers.

The researchers sought to characterize the epidemiology and impact of baby-wearing related injuries presenting to U.S. emergency departments. They reviewed 14,024 cases of baby-wearing injuries reported to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System from 2011 to 2020 and found that 61% of [children](#) of injuries occurred in children aged 0-5 months with 19.3% of these infants requiring hospitalization, and 83.7% of these children injuring their heads. A total 18.1% of [head injuries](#) related to a baby-wearing product led to hospitalization.

More than one out of five—or 22%—of all injuries were associated with the caregiving falling. The authors found seven cases of

cardiopulmonary arrest.

About 30% of baby-wearing injuries were associated with sling carriers, and 45% associated with non-specified types of baby carriers.

The authors suggest there is a need for more rigorous parental education regarding the use of baby carriers. They found a wide variety of products on the market, with most designed with additional space in the bust for breastfeeding women. This may increase the risk of [injury](#) to children when the product is worn by men.

Dr. Rowe will present the study abstract at Monday, Oct. 11, 2021: 4:00 PM CT.

More information: Abstract Title: Baby Wearing Injuries Presenting to Emergency Departments, 2011-2020: A Dangerous Fashion Trend

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