

# Epidural in labor not linked to adverse outcomes in offspring

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(HealthDay)—Epidural analgesia during labor is not associated with

immediate or longer-term adverse outcomes in offspring, according to a study published online Oct. 28 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Rachel J. Kearns, M.D., from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom, and colleagues used Scottish National Health Service hospital administrative data to identify 435,281 singleton [live births](#) in Scotland (2007 through 2016), with follow-up during the first 1,000 days of life.

The researchers reported that 21.7 percent of births had labor epidural, which was associated with a reduction in spontaneous vaginal deliveries (adjusted relative risk [aRR], 0.46), an increased risk for neonatal resuscitation (aRR, 1.07), and an [increased risk](#) for neonatal unit admission (aRR, 1.14). When further adjusting for mode of delivery, the associations for neonatal resuscitation and neonatal unit admission were reversed (aRR, 0.83 and 0.94, respectively). There was an association between epidural analgesia and a [reduced risk](#) for an Apgar score

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