

Cerebral palsy risk up with exposure to maternal unintentional injury in utero

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Exposure to maternal injury in utero is associated with increased risk of

cerebral palsy (CP), according to a study published online Nov. 28 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Asma Ahmed, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., from McGill University in Montreal, and colleagues examined the association between maternal unintentional [injury](#) and CP in offspring in a population-based, longitudinal cohort study. Infants born between April 1, 2002, and March 31, 2017, at more than 20 weeks of gestation were included.

Data were included for 2,110,177 children; 81,281 (3.9 percent) were exposed to maternal unintentional injury in utero. The researchers found that 5,317 children (0.3 percent) were diagnosed with CP during a median follow-up of eight years; 292 CP cases (5.5 percent) were exposed to maternal unintentional injury. In the exposed and unexposed groups, the mean incidence rates of CP were 4.36 and 2.93 per 10,000 child-years, respectively. After adjustment for maternal sociodemographic and clinical characteristics, there was a modest increase in the risk of CP for children exposed to maternal unintentional injury compared with those who were unexposed (hazard ratio, 1.33). Higher risks of CP were seen for [severe injuries](#) that resulted in hospitalization and delivery within one week from the injury (adjusted hazard ratios, 2.18 and 3.40, respectively).

"These results suggest that monitoring of [children](#) exposed to maternal injury in utero may contribute to early detection of adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes and thus to the provision of optimal management and needed support," the authors write.

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