

Prenatal exposure to maternal stress may raise psoriasis risk

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(HealthDay)—Prenatal exposure to maternal bereavement is associated

with psoriasis only for children born to a mother who lost a partner/spouse or an older child, according to a study published online Dec. 7 in the *British Journal of Dermatology*.

Xiaoqin Liu, Ph.D., from the National Center for Register-Based Research at Aarhus University in Denmark, and colleagues examined whether prenatal exposure to maternal bereavement increases the risk of offspring psoriasis in a register-based cohort study involving 1,811,917 live singletons. If mothers lost a child, partner/spouse, parent, or sibling during pregnancy or up to 12 months before pregnancy, the [children](#) were assigned to the bereaved group.

The researchers found that 7,956 children were hospitalized or prescribed medications for psoriasis during 28 million person-years of follow-up. By age 30 years, 1.54 and 1.34 percent of children from the bereaved and non-bereaved group, respectively, were diagnosed with psoriasis. In general, [prenatal exposure](#) to maternal bereavement was not associated with the risk of psoriasis (hazard ratio, 1.05; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.91 to 1.2). An increased risk of psoriasis was seen for children born to mothers who lost a partner/spouse or an older child (hazard ratio, 1.33; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.02 to 1.73).

"Prenatal exposure to the most stressful life event may contribute to the development and/or exacerbation of [psoriasis](#)," the authors write.

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