

Caffeine therapy for apnea of prematurity safe over long term

11 April 2018



"General intelligence, attention, and behavior were not adversely affected by caffeine, which highlights the long-term safety of [caffeine](#) therapy for apnea of prematurity in very low birth weight neonates," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—Neonatal caffeine therapy for apnea of prematurity has no detrimental long-term effects and even improves some neurologic measures, according to a study published online April 11 in *Pediatrics*.

Ines M. Mrner-Lavanchy, Ph.D., from Monash University in Australia, and colleagues investigated the effects of neonatal caffeine therapy in very [low birth weight](#) (500 to 1,250 g) infants by measuring neurobehavioral outcomes as part of an 11-year follow-up. General intelligence, attention, executive function, visuospatial integration and perception, and behavior were measured in up to 870 children. Regression models were used to evaluate the effects of caffeine therapy.

The researchers found that neurobehavioral outcomes were generally similar for both the caffeine and placebo group. Compared to the [placebo group](#), the caffeine group performed better in fine motor coordination ($P = 0.01$), visuospatial integration (P

APA citation: Caffeine therapy for apnea of prematurity safe over long term (2018, April 11) retrieved 12 November 2019 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-04-caffeine-therapy-apnea-prematurity-safe.html>

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