

# **Egyptian Fertility Sterility Society**

## **Can maternal injury during pregnancy increase the risk of fetal cerebral palsy (CP)?**

### **What is known already?**

Despite the common occurrence of unintentional injury during pregnancy, studies of its associations with an offspring's neurodevelopment are scarce. Few case series have reported an increased risk of poor neurodevelopmental outcomes after the in utero exposure to injury [1-3] .To date, only 1 population-based study has examined associations between maternal motor vehicle crashes and cerebral palsy (CP) and showed an associated increase in the risk of CP in children born preterm. [4]

### **What is New?**

A recent population-based longitudinal cohort study that included > 2,000,000 children [5] reported that:

- 1-Those with in utero exposure to maternal injury that required emergency department or inpatient care had a higher prevalence of CP compared with unexposed children (3.6 versus 2.5/ 1000 children) [5].
- 2- Maternal injuries of greater severity (eg, those resulting in hospitalization) were associated with higher CP risk in the offspring [5].
- 3- The association remained statistically significant after adjusting for maternal sociodemographic and clinical characteristics (hazard ratio 1.33, 95% CI 1.18-1.50). [5]

## Implications of the findings:

These findings highlight the importance of prevention efforts to reduce the risk of severe injury during pregnancy (e.g., correct use of the 3-point seat belts and airbags).

Children exposed in utero to maternal unintentional injury, particularly with greater severity, might benefit from better monitoring for neurodevelopmental development



## References

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