



Prenatal and perinatal factors and childhood disordered eating

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Abstract

Is It a Student Paper? No

OBJECTIVE: Earlier research has indicated associations between prenatal and perinatal factors and later eating disorder risk. However, previous findings have been partly conflicting and not always replicated. Here we analyzed associations between prenatal and perinatal factors and disordered eating in a large cohort of Finnish children.

METHOD: The participants consisted of 9-11 year-old children ($N = 2015$) from The Finnish Health in Teens study (Fin-HIT). Disordered eating was assessed using the Children's Eating Attitudes Test (ChEAT). Prenatal and perinatal data was obtained from the Finnish Birth Registry. Prenatal and perinatal variables were first analyzed using Crosstabs and Linear regressions, and variables associated with disordered eating ($p < .10$) were entered into a Multinomial linear regression model.

RESULTS: Preliminary results indicate that levels of disordered eating were significantly ($p < .05$) associated with maternal BMI before pregnancy, maternal smoking during pregnancy, in vitro fertilization, and method of delivery.

DISCUSSION: The results highlight the complex etiology of eating pathology. The detected associations partly confirm previous research, suggesting that pregnancy and childbirth are vulnerable developmental periods and linked to later mental health.

Topics: Prevention, Other

For workshops only

No Answer Given

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