

Headlines

["School-Age Outcomes of Very Preterm Infants After Antenatal Treatment With Magnesium Sulfate vs Placebo"](#)

["Taking the Fight to Reduce Infant Mortality Nationwide"](#)

["Potential Effects of California's New Vaccine Exemption Law on the Prevalence and Clustering of Exemptions"](#)

["Some Concussion Education More Useful Than Others, Parents Say"](#)

["Maternal Iron Intake Linked to Offspring Autism Risk"](#)

Fetus/Newborn Infant

School-Age Outcomes of Very Preterm Infants After Antenatal Treatment With Magnesium Sulfate vs Placebo

Journal of the American Medical Association (09/17/14) Vol. 312, No. 11, P. 1105; Doyle, Lex W.; Anderson, Peter J.; Haslam, Ross

School-age children who were born very preterm and whose mothers received magnesium sulfate had similar rates of cerebral palsy, motor function, and other behaviors as children of mothers who received a placebo. Antenatal magnesium sulfate, given to pregnant women at imminent risk of very preterm delivery, can reduce the risk of cerebral palsy in early childhood, but until now, researchers had not assessed its effects into school age. At 16 centers in Australia and New Zealand, researchers compared 535 women who received magnesium sulfate and 527 who received a placebo. In these women, imminent birth was planned or expected before 30 weeks' gestation. The study assessed 443 surviving children of mothers who received magnesium and 424 children of mothers who received placebo. The mortality rate to school age was 14 percent in the magnesium sulfate group and 18 percent in the placebo group. Results showed no statistically significant difference between the two groups in cerebral palsy or abnormal motor function, nor in any of the cognitive, behavioral, growth, or functional outcomes. "The lack of long-term benefit requires confirmation in additional studies," the researchers noted.

MetaTags: **Fetus/Newborn Infant; Undetermined; Rheumatology/Musculoskeletal Disorders**

[Return to Headlines](#)

Taking the Fight to Reduce Infant Mortality Nationwide

National Institute for Children's Health Quality (09/01/2014)

Statistics from 2010 show that 6.15 babies out of every 1,000 born in the United States died before their first birthday, compared to an average of 5 babies in all other industrialized nations. In an effort to combat this country's high rate of infant mortality, the National Institute for Children's Health Quality is leading the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) to Reduce Infant Mortality. This network brings together state and local public health officials, Medicaid directors, and representatives from public and private agencies to collaborate to help save babies' lives. One partner in the effort is the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP). AMCHP Director of Programs Lacy Fehrenbach says that the association's specific role in CoIIN is to help identify and spread implementation of best practices to address infant mortality, such as safe-sleep techniques and strategies for smoking cessation among pregnant women. A key challenge for the CoIIN initiative may be the limited resources available for competing priorities in public health. "My hope and dream is that within my lifetime every child born in this country has the same opportunity that my son had--which is being born at 40 weeks, healthy, thriving--and the greatest possible opportunity for a healthy and happy life," Fehrenbach said.

MetaTags: **Fetus/Newborn Infant; Undetermined; Neonatology**

[Return to Headlines](#)

Infectious Diseases

Potential Effects of California's New Vaccine Exemption Law on the Prevalence and Clustering of Exemptions

American Journal of Public Health (09/14) Vol. 104, No. 9, Jones, Malia; Buttenheim, Alison

A growing number of parents of California kindergartners are obtaining vaccine exemptions for their children, researchers report, and a change to the exemption law may not be enough to reverse this trend. Exemptions from required childhood vaccinations tend to occur in clusters within the state. Under a change made this year to California's exemption law for school vaccinations, parents filing for an exemption must submit signed documents from a healthcare provider.

MetaTags: **Infectious Diseases; CA; Vaccine/Immunization**

[Return to Headlines](#)

Neurology

Some Concussion Education More Useful Than Others, Parents Say

Newswise (09/22/14)

Many parents of young athletes are receiving information about concussion risks, but the way that information is delivered makes a difference. Only 11 percent of parents who received concussion education just by signing a waiver found the information very useful, according to the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health. Most parents who watched a video or presentation about concussions rated the information as very useful, but less than half of those who received a brochure found it very useful. About half of the survey's 912 parents of middle- and high-school children reported participation in some type of concussion education. Sarah J. Clark, associate director of the National Poll on Children's Health, says that many schools require parents to sign a waiver, but parents may skip over the medical information to get to the signature line. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that nearly 175,000 children annually are treated in U.S. emergency rooms for concussions from sports or recreational activities.

MetaTags: **Neurology; Undetermined; Concussion**

[Return to Headlines](#)

Nutrition

Maternal Iron Intake Linked to Offspring Autism Risk

Medical News Today (09/23/14) McNamee, David

Researchers at the University of California-Davis MIND Institute in Sacramento have found that mothers of children with autism are less likely to have taken iron supplements during pregnancy compared to mothers of children without autism. Iron deficiency is one of the most common nutrient deficiencies, although iron is necessary for proper brain development, and it is involved in neurotransmitter production, myelination, and immune function. Rebecca J. Schmidt, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences and a researcher with the MIND Institute, led a team that analyzed data from mother-child pairs in Northern California. Writing in the American Journal of Epidemiology, the investigators associated low maternal iron intake with a five-fold greater risk of autism if the mother is 35 or older when her child is born, or if she has hypertension or diabetes. Autism rates are now at about one in 68 U.S. children.

MetaTags: **Nutrition; CA; Autism/ASD**

[Return to Headlines](#)

Abstract News © Copyright 2014 [INFORMATION, INC.](#)

POWERED BY
infoinc.