

Health of children born following *in Vitro* fertilization

Klemetti R et al, Pediatrics 118: 1819-27, 2006

This study comes from Finland where currently 2.5% of infants are born from *in vitro* fertilization (IVF).

4559 IVF children born between 1996- 1999 were compared to two control groups during the same period.

Of all these children 34.7 % were twins and 1% were triplets.

Results showed that health of multiple births was worse than single births. Perinatal outcomes were worse and hospital episodes more common in IVF children. The risks of Cerebral palsy, and developmental disorders were increased. However,, they did not find any increased evidence of specific medical condition,

Authors recommend the transfer of a single embryo to improve their health status.

Palatal tremor in children

Campistol-Plana J, et al, Dev.Med, Child Neurol. 48: 982-84, 2006

Palatal tremor is a rhythmic myoclonic movement of the soft palate, which manifests itself as “ear clicking” for the patient and is not associated with other neurological signs.

It appears as a rhythmic contraction of the soft palate from the contraction of the *tensor levator palatini*

The age varies between 6 and 7 years and presents as a bilateral click ear clicking which tends to cease during sleep and can be controlled voluntarily. This condition tends to resolve itself with time and is generally treated with medication.

Childhood depressive symptoms and early onset of alcohol use

Wu, P et al, Pediatrics 118: 1907-15, 2006

Underage drinking is a major public health issue.

- It involves 1/3 of young drivers' fatal motor vehicle accidents
- Increase the possibility of having unprotected sex
- Increases the likelihood of committing criminal and violent acts
- Increases the risk for alcohol abuse and dependence.
- Young drinkers are twice likely to attempt or contemplate suicide or inflict self harm.

Because alcohol consumption and depression have been highly associated, this study was carried out on 1119, 10-13 year old Puerto Rican children living in the US.

Results showed positive associations between depressive symptoms and initiation of alcohol in childhood and adolescence. Children with medium or high levels of depressive symptoms were more than twice likely to use alcohol than less depressive individuals.

Eating in larger groups increases food consumption.

Lumerig JC, Hillman KH, Arch Dis Chil. 92: 384-87, 2007

Adults and animals consume more food when they eat in the presence or other than when they eat alone. This study tried to understand how the "Social facilitation effect" can help in the prevention of childhood obesity.

This investigation involved 54 children, ages 2.5 to 6.5 years attending school. These children were separated into small groups (3 children) and large groups (9 children) and were videotaped during each snack.

Children in the large group consumed significantly more (30%) and this effect increased as snack time increased.

Large groups tended to socialize less and initiated eating more rapidly and faster than small groups