

Obstetric synthetic oxytocin use and subsequent hyperactivity/inattention problems in Danish children.

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Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand. 2018 Mar 25.

doi: 10.1111/aogs.13344.

Abstract

INTRODUCTION:

The objective was to examine the association between obstetric synthetic oxytocin use and hyperactivity/inattention problems in offspring.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

We identified children born between 2000-2003, enrolled in the Danish National Birth Cohort, with data on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire reported by parents at age 7 (n = 33,896) and age 11 (n = 27,561) and the children themselves around age 11 (n = 27,251). Information on oxytocin administration was provided in the Medical Birth Register. We estimated mean differences and odds ratios for childhood hyperactivity/inattention problems according to oxytocin exposure.

RESULTS:

Synthetic oxytocin was administered in 26% of the deliveries. We did not find the use of synthetic oxytocin during birth to be associated with childhood hyperactivity/inattention problems, whether analyzed in linear or by logistic regression models.

CONCLUSIONS:

Our findings do not support any effects of obstetric use of synthetic oxytocin on hyperactivity/inattention problems in children, when measured with the SDQ sub-scale at 7 or 11 years of age.