

Prenatal exposure to phthalates may affect infants' health

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Phthalates are endocrine disrupting chemicals that are used in plastics and as food additives. A recent study in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* examined whether prenatal exposure to phthalates in maternal

and cord blood affects birth outcomes in infants.

Results from the study involving 65 mother-infant pairs suggest that phthalates have potentially estrogenic effects in female [infants](#) and anti-androgenic effects in male infants. Also, higher levels of several different phthalates were associated with smaller head circumference in all infants.

"Follow-up of the study participants could help to clarify the long-term impacts of phthalates on infants' growth and health," said corresponding author Pai-Shan Chen, Ph.D., of National Taiwan University.

More information: Hsiao-Lin Hwa et al, Monitoring Phthalates in Maternal and Cord Blood: Implications for Prenatal Exposure and Birth Outcomes, *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/etc.5280](#)

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