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Study concludes autoimmune disease prevention in high risk children may be possible through Cesarean childbirth

The transmission of autoimmune diseases from mother to fetus can possibly be diminished by reducing maternal-fetal cell traffic, study finds.

New York, N.Y.-A study by Norbert Gleicher M.D. and associates, from The Center of Human Reproduction, concludes that the risk of passing the genetic predisposition towards autoimmune diseases to offspring can possibly be reduced by delivering them via cesarean section. A vaginal delivery may increase the risk of developing an autoimmune disease later in life by up to 7-8-times. Mode of delivery may affect this risk since vaginal delivery increases the amount of maternal cell traffic into the fetus. Such cell traffic has been associated with the risk of developing autoimmune diseases.

The study investigated 163 women with autoimmune diseases like Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Rheumatoid arthritis, Scleroderma, Thyroid disease and Type I diabetes and included 73 healthy controls and the offspring of both groups of women. The study was recently published in the medical journal, *Journal of Autoimmunity* (Volume 27, pages 161-5, 2006), titled “The Impact of Abnormal Autoimmune Function on Reproduction: Maternal and Fetal Consequences.”

Gleicher, and the Center for Human Reproduction in New York City, specialize in the treatment of complex fertility problems. For more information, call BusiMed at (312) 876-1506 or visit www.centerforhumanreprod.com/autoimmune_disease.html.

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