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Georgia Southern Examines Epigenetic Dysregulation of IGF

August 25, 2016



Preterm birth (PTB), low birth weight (LBW) and small for gestational age (SGA) are leading causes of neonatal mortality and morbidity around the world. Epigenetic alterations of the human genome may be involved in the causal chain of adverse pregnancy outcomes. In this systematic review we investigated whether PTB, LBW and SGA are associated with epigenetic dysregulation of insulin-like growth factor-related genes (IGF).

We searched MEDLINE and EMBASE for peer-reviewed articles about IGF and PTB, LBW and SGA published up to February 2015. Two independent reviewers selected original, controlled, human studies published in any language and graded them using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale. Disagreements were resolved by consensus with a third reviewer.

Overall, evidence of an association between epigenetic abnormalities of IGF-related genes and LBW or SGA was weak and inconsistent. Methodological concerns limited results validity.

[“Epigenetic dysregulation of Insulin-like growth factor \(IGF\)-related genes and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review,”](#) was published in *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*.

Dr. Samuel Opoku, assistant professor of health policy and management at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was one of the co-authors.

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