

Cesarean birth may be associated with increased childhood cancer risk

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Cesarean birth seems to be associated with increased risk of cancer

during childhood, especially lymphoma and sarcoma, according to a study published online March 17 in *Acta Paediatrica*.

Sophie Marcoux, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Montreal, and colleagues examined the association between cesarean birth and age-specific risks of [childhood](#) cancer in a cohort of 1,034,049 children followed between 2006 to 2020, from birth until age 14 years.

Overall, 24.1 percent of the [children](#) were born by cesarean birth and 9.4 percent by operative vaginal delivery. The researchers found that cesarean was associated with increased risk of any cancer (hazard ratio, 1.16; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.04 to 1.30), hematopoietic cancer (hazard ratio, 1.12; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.92 to 1.36), and [solid tumors](#) (hazard ratio, 1.21; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.06 to 1.39), compared with spontaneous vaginal birth. The associations strengthened at age 2 years, and were highest for lymphoma and sarcoma. There was no significant association seen for operative vaginal birth with risk of cancer.

"The data in this study raise the possibility of a relationship between [cesarean birth](#) and cancer in childhood, but the etiologic pathways require further investigation before reaching a conclusion," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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