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Prenatal maternal cortisol concentrations predict neurodevelopment in middle childhood

**Running title:** Prenatal maternal cortisol concentrations predict child neurodevelopment

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Highlights

- Cortisol plays a central role in regulation of fetal brain development.
- Fetal exposure to optimal levels of maternal cortisol may benefit neurodevelopment
- Higher maternal cortisol late in gestation predicts child cortical thickness.
- Higher maternal cortisol is associated with better cognitive performance.

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