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Does prednisone use or disease activity in pregnant women with rheumatoid arthritis influence the body composition of their offspring?

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Highlights

- Prednisone during pregnancy does not influence the body composition later in life
- RA disease activity during pregnancy does not influence the body composition later in life
- Different therapeutic view considering RA treatment during pregnancy is inevitable

ABSTRACT

Glucocorticoids are given during pregnancy when rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is too active.

It could

lead to increased risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in the

offspring. Elevated RA disease activity during pregnancy is associated with low birth weight and

rapid post-natal growth. Both can negatively influence the body composition later in life.

This study shows that prednisone use or RA disease activity in pregnant women with RA had no

influence on the body composition of prepubertal offspring. Furthermore, no components of the

metabolic syndrome (MetS) were present in the children, which minimize the change on CVD or

T2DM later in life. This reassuring conclusion might lead to a different therapeutic view when

glucocorticoid treatment during pregnancy is inevitable.

Keywords

Pregnancy

Rheumatoid Arthritis

RA disease activity

prednisone use during pregnancy

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