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Ovarian stimulation perturbs methylation status of placental imprinting genes and reduces blood pressure in the second generation offspring

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Abstract

Objective(s) Assisted reproductive technology (ART) is associated with DNA methylation dysfunction of offspring. However, it is unclear whether ovarian stimulation (OS) is responsible for DNA methylation dysfunction of offspring.

Study Design We built the first-generation (F1) and second-generation (F2) offspring mice model of ovarian stimulation. Bodyweight of F1 and F2 were measured. Expression levels of several imprinted genes (*Impact*, *H19*, *Igf2*, *Plagl1*, *Mest*, and *Snrpn*) in F1 placenta were tested. Methylation status of *Plagl1* and *H19* promoters was examined with bisulfite sequencing. Glucose tolerance, blood pressure, and heart rate were evaluated in F2 mice.

Results The OS F1 showed elevated bodyweights in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th weeks, but the difference disappeared in the 5th week. *Plagl1* was down-regulated in OS F1. Promoters of *Plagl1* and *H19* were also hypermethylated in OS F1. F2 of OS mice had the similar bodyweight and glucose tolerance compared with the control F2. However, F2 of OS ♂F1 + OS ♀ F1 showed the decreased systolic pressure, diastolic pressure, and heart rate.

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