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1 **Diabetes in pregnancy and lung health in offspring: developmental origins of respiratory disease**

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23 **Summary**

24 Diabetes is an increasingly common complication of pregnancy. In parallel with this trend, a rise in
25 chronic lung disease in children has been observed in recent decades. While several adverse health
26 outcomes associated with exposure to diabetes *in utero* have been documented in epidemiological and
27 experimental studies, few have examined the impact of diabetes in pregnancy on offspring lung health
28 and respiratory disease. We provide a comprehensive overview of current literature on this topic,
29 finding suggestive evidence that exposure to diabetes *in utero* may have adverse effects on lung
30 development. Delayed lung maturation and increased risk of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) have
31 been consistently observed among infants born to mothers with diabetes and these findings are also
32 observed in some rodent models of diabetes in pregnancy. Further research is needed to confirm and
33 characterize epidemiologic observations that diabetes in pregnancy may predispose offspring to
34 childhood wheezing illness and asthma. Parallel translational studies in human pregnancy cohorts and
35 experimental models are needed to explore the role of fetal programming and other potential biological
36 mechanisms in this context.

37

38 **Educational aims:**

- 39 1. Review existing evidence linking diabetes in pregnancy with lung development and respiratory
40 health in offspring
- 41 2. Describe potential mechanisms for the association between diabetes in pregnancy and
42 respiratory health in offspring
- 43 3. Acknowledge the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic studies and rodent models
44 addressing the association between diabetes in pregnancy and lung health in offspring

45 **Directions for Future Research**

- 46 1. Long-term follow up studies monitoring respiratory health of children exposed to diabetes *in*
47 *utero* are needed, since no studies to date have evaluated this association beyond early
48 adolescence.
- 49 2. Epidemiologic associations between diabetes in pregnancy and lung health in offspring should
50 be replicated and studied in rodent models, where molecular mechanisms can be investigated in
51 detail in order to inform new treatments and prevention strategies.
- 52 3. All studies should clearly distinguish between pre-gestational (type 1 or type 2) and gestational
53 diabetes arising in pregnancy since these exposures are not equivalent.

54

55

56 **1 Introduction**

57 Respiratory health is influenced by intrinsic and extrinsic environmental stressors during fetal and
58 postnatal development, with important implications for chronic lung disease later in life (1). Diabetes in
59 pregnancy has long been associated with adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes and has recently
60 emerged as an important trigger for the fetal programming of lifelong metabolic and cardiovascular
61 health outcomes in offspring (2). These clinical observations have been confirmed in rodent models,
62 which have further identified specific alterations in gene expression among offspring exposed to
63 diabetes *in utero* (reviewed in (2)). While the majority of this research has focused on short-term
64 maternal and neonatal health outcomes, or long-term metabolic and cardiovascular consequences in
65 offspring, there is a growing body of evidence suggesting an impact of diabetes in pregnancy on
66 offspring lung development and respiratory health. We provide an overview of this literature and
67 identify key knowledge gaps requiring additional research.

68 *1.1 Maternal diabetes in pregnancy*

69 Diabetes affects a rising proportion of pregnancies worldwide, including up to 10% in the United States
70 (3). Dysregulation of glycemic control during pregnancy is associated with numerous adverse maternal
71 and neonatal outcomes, including preeclampsia, preterm birth, macrosomia and stillbirth (4). Since the
72 risk of harm for offspring increases with the duration and extent of hyperglycemia exposure, it is
73 important to distinguish pre-gestational diabetes (type 1 diabetes (T1D) or type 2 diabetes (T2D)
74 diagnosed prior to pregnancy) from gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), defined as fasting or post-
75 prandial hyperglycemia first detected during pregnancy (2). T1D is characterized by hyperglycemia due
76 to an absolute deficiency of insulin production, whereas hyperglycemia in T2D and GDM is associated
77 with both insulin resistance (in hepatic and/or peripheral tissues) and insufficient insulin secretion to
78 maintain euglycemia (3). There is convincing evidence that exposure to diabetes earlier in pregnancy

79 (i.e. exposure to pre-gestational diabetes) carries the most severe health consequences for the offspring
80 (4), but the distinction between pre-gestational diabetes and true GDM is rarely made in respiratory
81 health studies. Currently the standard screening protocol to detect diabetes in pregnancy is an oral
82 glucose challenge test between 24 and 28 weeks of gestation, which would not distinguish between
83 GDM or undiagnosed pre-pregnancy T2D (5). Moreover, most health registries used in longitudinal
84 research do not reliably distinguish between types of diabetes.

85 *1.2 Fetal lung development*

86 Fetal lung development occurs in five stages (**Figure 1**), beginning with tracheal separation from the
87 esophagus in the embryonic stage at 3 weeks of gestation and ending with the development of mature
88 alveoli in the alveolarization stage, which occurs following birth and extends into early childhood (6).
89 The intermediate stages (pseudoglandular, canalicular, and saccular) encompass the development of the
90 branched airway structure, epithelial lined sacs that become alveoli, and various layers of the airway and
91 pulmonary vasculature walls (7). In addition, surfactant production begins at 24 weeks of gestation and
92 continues until birth. Surfactant is a complex mixture of phospholipids and proteins that act to reduce
93 surface tension in the alveoli and prevent alveolar collapse during expiration (8). Environmental
94 exposures throughout gestation and postnatally can therefore have significant and distinct impacts on
95 lung development and future health. Extensive research has been undertaken to establish how maternal
96 nutrition (9), smoking (10), and exposure to air pollution (11) influence lung development and
97 respiratory health; however, much less is known about how diabetes in pregnancy affects fetal lung
98 development and subsequent respiratory health in the offspring.

99 2 Diabetes in pregnancy and neonatal respiratory outcomes

100 2.1 Respiratory Distress Syndrome

101 Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) is an important cause of neonatal morbidity, affecting 40 000
102 infants each year in the US (12). RDS is characterized by a lack of functional surfactant in the neonatal
103 lung, resulting in collapse of the terminal air spaces. Treatment involves ventilation and oxygen therapy
104 which can damage the epithelium, resulting in plasma leakage into the collapsed airspaces and
105 formation of a fibrin-rich hyaline membrane that further damages the tissue (13). Infants who are
106 treated for RDS, and especially those who suffer damage from the treatment, are more likely to develop
107 asthma (14), putting them at increased risk for lifelong chronic lung disease.

108 Preterm birth is the strongest risk factor for RDS (15), and women with pre-gestational diabetes or GDM
109 are more likely to deliver preterm (16, 17). Additionally, diabetes in pregnancy may be an independent
110 risk factor for RDS (Table 1). A 1976 cohort study by Robert et al. including over 10 000 US children
111 reported a 23.4% incidence of RDS among infants born to women with diabetes in pregnancy, compared
112 to 1.3% among their counterparts without diabetes (18). This association persisted after controlling for
113 gestational age at birth and additional confounders (relative risk (RR) 5.6, $p < 0.0001$), although no
114 distinction was made between pre-gestational diabetes and GDM. More recent studies reveal that RDS
115 risk is particularly elevated following exposure to pre-gestational (19) or insulin-treated (20) diabetes in
116 pregnancy. However, this is not a universal finding as two studies in very low birthweight infants found
117 no association between diabetes in pregnancy and RDS (21, 22). These conflicting results may be due to
118 differences in gestational age, mode of delivery, maternal blood glucose control, prenatal steroid use, or
119 RDS definitions between studies.

120 The mechanism by which diabetes in pregnancy could increase the risk for RDS is related to the
121 composition and integrity of pulmonary surfactant in the developing fetus. Specifically, expression of
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Comment [HR1]: RDS is not an easily identified risk factor for asthma. As recently reviewed (Kouzouna A, Gilchrist FJ, Ball V, Kyriacou T, Henderson J, Pandyan AD, Lenney W. A systematic review of early life factors which adversely affect subsequent lung function. *Paediatr Respir Rev.* 2016 Mar 14. pii: S1526-0542(16)00030-0. doi: 10.1016/j.prrv.2016.03.003.), BPD and mechanical ventilation have the stronger association with asthma. It might be better to say – infants who are treated for RDS, and especially those who suffer damage from the treatment are more likely ... and then use the reference above instead of the one from 1996

Comment [MA2]: Changed as suggested. Thanks!

122 surfactant proteins B and C in epithelial cell culture is inhibited by insulin (23, 24), which is commonly
123 elevated among neonates exposed to hyperglycemia during pregnancy (25). In addition, pregnancy
124 complicated by diabetes is associated with delayed appearance of phosphatidylglycerol, a major lipid
125 component of surfactant and an important marker of fetal lung maturity (26). A study evaluating
126 glycemic control in 621 mothers with diabetes found that smaller gestational age at birth and poor
127 maternal glycemic control independently predicted the delayed appearance of phosphatidylglycerol
128 within neonatal surfactant (27). Another study found that well-controlled diabetes in pregnancy (T1D or
129 GDM) does not delay fetal lung maturity (28), emphasizing the importance of maternal glycemic control
130 for maintaining normal fetal lung development.

131 2.2 Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia

132 Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) is a chronic lung condition characterized by thin alveoli septa and
133 interstitial thickening that can result from extended ventilator use in preterm infants, often for the
134 treatment of RDS. Despite the association of diabetes in pregnancy with preterm birth and RDS
135 (described above), a Swedish study of over 100 000 preterm infants by Eriksson et al. found that both
136 pre-gestational diabetes and GDM were associated with *reduced* risks of BPD (odds ratio (OR) for pre-
137 gestational diabetes: 0.64; 95% confidence interval (95%CI) 0.42-0.97; OR for GDM 0.36; 95%CI 0.20-
138 0.65) (29). This counterintuitive protective association was not explained by insulin use among mothers
139 with diabetes, or higher birthweight for gestational age among their infants. Prenatal steroid use was
140 not considered. The authors speculated that diabetes in pregnancy might initiate fetal stress reactions
141 and increase endogenous corticosteroid levels, thus promoting lung maturation in the newborn infant.
142 Bental and colleagues' study of very low birthweight infants in Israel also found a small reduction in BPD
143 risk among infants born to mothers with GDM or pre-gestational diabetes (19.9% vs. 24.5%, $p=0.002$);
144 however, this association was not significant after adjusting for confounders (OR 1.00; 95%CI 0.81-1.25).

145 They concluded that the apparent protective association was due to increased use of prenatal steroids
146 among mothers with diabetes, and increased birthweight among their infants (30). Similarly, a matched
147 double-cohort study in very low birthweight Canadian infants by Rehan et al. found no association
148 between diabetes in pregnancy and BPD (22), and a study of nearly 12 000 very low birthweight infants
149 across six South American countries found no significant association after adjusting for birthweight,
150 prenatal steroids, and other confounders (OR 1.20; 95%CI 0.91-1.58) (21). Therefore, current evidence
151 for an independent association between diabetes in pregnancy and BPD in offspring is weak.

152 2.3 *Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia*

153 Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) is a rare birth defect in which the diaphragm fails to fully
154 develop, allowing the contents of the abdomen to enter the chest cavity. This disease is associated with
155 severely underdeveloped (hypoplastic) lungs, the latter effect occurring independently of diaphragm
156 abnormalities (31). Children born with CDH surviving surgical repair carry chronic lung defects including
157 increased parenchymal elastance and reduced diffusing capacity, which severely compromises their
158 respiratory health and quality of life. In a cohort study of 492 infants with CDH and 4900 controls,
159 maternal pre-gestational diabetes was strongly associated with CDH (OR 12.53; 95%CI: 2.40-65.43) (32).
160 A similar association was found by Correa et al. in a larger study of 17 000 infants (OR 4.70, 95%CI: 1.02-
161 21.60) (33). These studies did not distinguish between T1D and T2D or evaluate the possible impact of
162 GDM. The underlying mechanism for this association has not been studied directly, but the authors
163 hypothesized that it may involve dysregulation of genes responsible for apoptosis and organogenesis
164 during fetal development, suggesting an association between maternal metabolic health and
165 development of lung-associated abnormalities in CDH (32).

166 **3 Diabetes in pregnancy and respiratory outcomes in infancy and childhood**

167 **3.1 Wheezing**

168 Wheezing is common during infancy and early childhood, with 20% to 50% of infants experiencing at
169 least one episode in the first year of life across different settings (34, 35). A recent pooled analysis of
170 individual participant data from 14 European birth cohorts (n=85 509) found that diabetes in pregnancy
171 (pre-gestational diabetes, GDM, and glucose intolerance in pregnancy) was not associated with parent-
172 reported wheezing in offspring from birth to 24 months of age (36) (**Table 2**). Specifically, after adjusting
173 for confounders (e.g. maternal smoking, education, and asthma) and other pregnancy complications
174 (overweight/obesity and hypertensive disorders), the authors found no consistent association between
175 diabetes in pregnancy and “ever wheezing” (Relative Risk (RR) 1.04; 95% CI 0.97–1.13) or “recurrent
176 wheezing” (RR 1.24; 95% CI 0.86–1.79). However, there was evidence of heterogeneity across cohorts
177 ($p=0.03$), which the authors attributed to variations in diagnostic criteria, screening policies and actual
178 prevalence of diabetes in pregnancy between countries.

179 In a cross-sectional study of over 15 000 Italian children, Rusconi et al. evaluated persistent wheezing
180 later in childhood (age 6-7 years) and found a significant association with diabetes in pregnancy (37).
181 Children born to a mother with GDM or pre-gestational diabetes were significantly more likely to have
182 persistent wheezing by school age (OR 1.84; 95% CI: 1.06-3.20), after adjustment for low birthweight,
183 socioeconomic status, maternal age and smoking, and other confounders. These findings could signal
184 long-term respiratory consequences of exposure to diabetes *in utero*, since we and others have found
185 that wheezing in early childhood predicts significantly reduced lung function and increased asthma risk
186 in adolescence (38, 39).

187 3.2 *Asthma*

188 Asthma is the most common chronic disease of childhood, affecting 9.3% of American children (40) and
189 costing over \$56 billion annually in the United States alone (41). International reports have estimated
190 asthma prevalence at 14% among 6-14 year old children worldwide (42). The developmental origins of
191 asthma have been intensely studied since prevention is regarded as the best approach to managing the
192 health and economic burden associated with this disease. However, only four studies have specifically
193 investigated the association between diabetes in pregnancy and childhood asthma (43-46) (**Table 2**). All
194 found a positive association, although none distinguished between GDM and pre-gestational diabetes.
195 In the smallest cohort study by Risnes et al. (n=1401 US children) (45), diabetes in pregnancy was
196 associated with a three-fold increased risk of physician-diagnosed asthma by 6 years of age (OR 3.63;
197 95% CI 1.46-9.04); however, this estimate was not adjusted for any confounders since diabetes in
198 pregnancy was not the primary exposure of interest in this study. A significant but more modest
199 association was reported by Aspberg et al. in a large population-based registry study of over 1 million
200 Swedish children (44), in which the odds of hospitalization for asthma was 19% higher among children
201 exposed to diabetes in pregnancy (OR 1.19; 95% CI: 1.12-1.28) after adjustment for maternal age, parity,
202 smoking, and other confounders. Similarly, in a national Finnish database study of 1.2 million children
203 (46), Haataja et al. found that moderately preterm infants (32 -34 weeks gestational age at birth)
204 exposed to diabetes in pregnancy were at increased risk of physician-diagnosed asthma by 7 years old
205 (hazard ratio (HR) 1.62, 95% CI: 1.02-2.58), independent of many confounders including delivery mode,
206 maternal age, antenatal steroids, and maternal smoking. This relationship was not found for other
207 preterm infants, and although it was nearly significant in term infants, the effect was small (HR 1.09;
208 95%CI 0.99-1.21).

209 We performed a cross-sectional study in 3574 Canadian school-aged children (43), finding that those
210 with parent-reported asthma were more likely to have mothers (2.9 vs 1.2%, $p=0.003$) but not fathers
211 (1.4 vs 1.3%, $p=0.89$) with diabetes. This finding is consistent with the fetal programming hypothesis
212 (47), suggesting that a hyperglycemic intrauterine environment increases the risk for asthma in
213 childhood. Interestingly, our study further showed that diabetes in pregnancy did not confer a strong
214 independent risk for asthma; rather, this exposure amplified the effects of maternal asthma and
215 environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). For example, diabetes in pregnancy increased the ETS-associated
216 risk for asthma from 1.4-fold (OR 1.40; 95%CI 1.13–1.73) to 5.7-fold (OR 5.68; 95%CI 1.18–27.36; P for
217 interaction= 0.08). Based on these findings, we proposed that fetal hypoxia and immune dysregulation
218 may be synergistically amplified in pregnancies complicated by diabetes in combination with maternal
219 asthma or ETS exposure, leading to a markedly elevated risk of asthma in offspring (43). Both fetal
220 hypoxia and immune dysregulation are established mechanisms for asthma development (48, 49) and
221 they have been independently linked to diabetes in pregnancy (50, 51). Others have framed asthma as
222 an autoimmune disease arising from immunological disturbances that are imprinted during fetal life
223 (44), perhaps involving factors common to T1D, which is also an autoimmune disorder. However, these
224 postulated mechanisms and interactions remain to be replicated in other cohorts and proven in
225 experimental models.

226 3.3 *Other respiratory issues*

227 Kumar et al. found that GDM increased the risk of allergic sensitization by 3 years of age in full term (OR
228 6.05; 95%CI 1.17-31.18), but not preterm (OR 0.33; 95%CI 0.07-1.60) offspring (52). These effects were
229 independent of family history, infant sex, maternal BMI, race and education, breastfeeding, peripartum
230 antibiotic use, and c-section delivery. These findings may be relevant to respiratory health since allergic
231 sensitization by 2 years of age is a strong risk factor for wheezing throughout childhood (38, 53). The

232 authors speculated that the lack of association in preterm infants might be due to the shorter exposure
233 to hyperglycemia in GDM.

234 **4 Evidence from animal models**

235 The epidemiologic studies described above provide intriguing observational evidence that exposure to
236 diabetes *in utero* may be associated with impaired lung development and poor respiratory health.
237 However, human studies are limited in their ability to characterize gestational exposures, control for
238 confounding factors, perform lifelong follow up, and study biological mechanisms. These limitations can
239 be addressed in animal models, which allow precise control of environmental factors and detailed
240 mechanistic studies to provide insight into the human condition. Similar to humans, rodent lung
241 development begins with the origination of lung buds, lobular division, airway branching and
242 bronchiolar development during gestation, and continues postnatally with secondary septation and
243 expansion of the number and size of capillaries and alveoli (54) (**Figure 1**). In contrast to humans where
244 alveolar duct and air sac development occurs entirely *in utero*, this process continues for several days
245 after birth in mice. Keeping this difference in mind, rodents provide a useful and appropriate model for
246 human lung development.

247 *4.1 Rodent models of pre-gestational diabetes and GDM*

248 Several rodent systems have been developed to model T1D, T2D and GDM using drug administration,
249 genetic modification, and dietary interventions. Notably, these methods and the resulting
250 hyperglycemia can impact fertility, presenting specific challenges for studies of pregnancy.

251 The most commonly used rodent model of diabetes in pregnancy is streptozotocin or alloxan
252 administration prior to pregnancy to extinguish the insulin secretion capacity of pancreatic beta cells in
253 order to induce T1D (55). Genetic models include the non-obese diabetic (NOD) mouse and the bio-

254 breeding (BB) rat that spontaneously develop T1D via autoimmune attack, much like human T1D (56).
255 Established genetic models of T2D include the leptin-deficient ob/ob mouse and the leptin-resistant
256 db/db mouse; however, these are not useful models of T2D in pregnancy since these homozygous mice
257 are infertile (55). Several approaches have been used to model GDM. In db/+ or ob/+ heterozygotes,
258 GDM occurs spontaneously when partial leptin deficiency is combined with the added metabolic stress
259 of pregnancy (57). Alternatively, high fat or high carbohydrate diet-induced models can provide the
260 necessary “pre-diabetic” conditions that will result in spontaneous GDM (2, 55). Diet-induced models
261 have the benefits of avoiding genetic manipulations or drug-induced teratogenic effects, and of
262 providing an ideal model to evaluate dietary interventions for GDM prevention and treatment.

263 4.2 *Lung development in rodent models of diabetes in pregnancy*

264 The above models of diabetes in pregnancy have been utilized extensively to study the programming of
265 metabolic and cardiovascular health in the offspring (reviewed in (2)); however, relatively few studies
266 have been performed to assess lung development in these model systems (**Table 3**).

267 Consistent with human studies (Section 2.1), delayed pneumocyte differentiation (58) and lung
268 maturation (59-61) have been observed in rodent models of diabetes during pregnancy, including
269 streptozotocin-induced T1D (60), genetic T1D in BB rats (61), and obesity-associated GDM in db/+ mice
270 (59). Reduced content and synthesis of surfactant phospholipids (62-64) and surfactant proteins (65)
271 have also been observed in neonatal rats born to dams with streptozotocin-induced T1D. Evidence from
272 the db/+ model of GDM suggests that these surfactant defects occur as a consequence of dysregulated
273 phospholipid synthesis or metabolism in the developing fetus (59). Consistent with clinical evidence (4),
274 more severe abnormalities are observed in rodent offspring when exposure to diabetes is experienced
275 early during embryonic organogenesis versus later in fetal development (55). Further studies using

276 rodent models are required to fully characterize the molecular mechanisms linking diabetes in
277 pregnancy to impaired surfactant levels and lung development in the offspring.

278 **4.3 Chronic respiratory disease in rodent offspring exposed to diabetes in pregnancy**

279 There is a paucity of studies using animal models to directly investigate chronic respiratory disease
280 following exposure to diabetes during fetal development. Since an association is apparent in
281 epidemiologic studies (Section 3), there is a need to explore the underlying mechanisms that may link
282 diabetes in pregnancy with chronic lung disease in experimental models. There is an established link
283 between maternal hyperglycemia and placental inflammation, which could lead to impaired fetal lung
284 development and higher risk for inflammatory disorders later in life (66). Indeed, dysregulated
285 prostaglandin signalling has been linked to delayed fetal lung maturation in streptozotocin-treated mice
286 (67) and alloxan-treated rabbits (68). While these models of T1D provide a good starting point for
287 analyzing the impact of diabetes in pregnancy on lung health in offspring, GDM and pre-gestational T2D
288 are more prevalent than T1D in clinical settings. Diet-induced models of T2D and GDM (2) will therefore
289 be particularly helpful in determining the mechanisms by which exposure to diabetes *in utero* influences
290 the development of chronic lung disease.

291 **5 Conclusions and Future Research Directions**

292 Diabetes is an increasingly common complication of pregnancy (3) and a parallel rise in chronic lung
293 disease has been observed in recent decades (69). While the adverse metabolic consequences of
294 exposure to diabetes *in utero* have been repeatedly documented in clinical and experimental studies (2),
295 few have examined the potential impact of diabetes in pregnancy on lung health and respiratory disease
296 in the offspring. From the limited literature on this topic, there is suggestive evidence of a clinically
297 important association. Delayed lung maturation and increased risk of RDS have been consistently
298 observed among infants born to mothers with diabetes and these findings are recapitulated in rodent
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299 models of diabetes in pregnancy. Further research is needed to confirm and characterize observations
300 that diabetes in pregnancy may predispose offspring to wheezing illness and childhood asthma, as the
301 vast majority of these studies have been retrospective and none have distinguished between pre-
302 gestational diabetes and GDM.

303 Long-term epidemiologic studies will be particularly valuable for establishing lifecourse implications of
304 diabetes in pregnancy on lung health, as no study to date has investigated these associations beyond
305 early adolescence. All future studies should clearly distinguish between GDM and pre-gestational T1D
306 or T2D, since research to date clearly demonstrates that “diabetes in pregnancy” is not a homogeneous
307 exposure. Rodent studies in appropriate models of diabetes in pregnancy will be essential for
308 identifying biological mechanisms. In particular, parallel studies in human pregnancy cohorts and
309 experimental models are needed to explore the role of fetal programming in this context.

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320

7 Tables & Figure

Table 1. Summary of human studies reporting associations of diabetes in pregnancy respiratory outcomes in neonates.

Study	Population and Setting	Type of Diabetes in Pregnancy	Respiratory Outcome	Association
Robert et al. 1975 (18)	Retrospective cohort 10 957 newborns USA	Unspecified	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	Increased risk (RR 5.6, p<0.0001)
Abu-Heija et al. 2015 (19)	Retrospective chart review 5811 newborns Oman	Pre-gestational or GDM (separately)	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	Increased risk with pre-gestational vs. GDM (8.5% vs. 2.6%; p=0.03)
Becquet et al. 2015 (20)	Retrospective cohort 18 095 newborns France	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	Increased risk with insulin-treated diabetes (IRR 1.44; 95%CI 1.00 – 2.08) No association with untreated diabetes (IRR 0.95; 95%CI 0.68-1.32)
Rehan et al. 2002 (22)	Retrospective matched double-cohort 582 VLBW newborns Canada	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	No association (RR 0.70; 95%CI 0.35-1.42)
Grandi et al. 2015 (21)	Retrospective cohort 11 991 VLBW newborns South America	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	No association (OR 1.18; 95%CI 0.90-1.56)
Eriksson et al. 2014 (29)	Registry-based cohort 106 339 preterm infants Sweden	Pre-gestational or GDM (separately)	Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	Reduced risk (pre-gestational: OR 0.64; 95%CI 0.42-0.97; GDM OR: 0.36; 95%CI 0.20-0.65)
Bental et al. 2011 (30)	Registry-based cohort 15 784 VLBW newborns Israel	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	No association (OR 1.00; 95%CI 0.81-1.25)
Rehan et al. 2002 (22)	Retrospective matched double-cohort 582 VLBW newborns Canada	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	No association (RR 1.24; 95%CI 0.59-2.61)
Grandi et al. 2015 (21)	Retrospective cohort 11 991 VLBW newborns South America	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	No association (OR 1.20; 95%CI 0.91-1.58)
McAteer et al. 2014 (32)	Registry-based case-control 492 newborns with CDH + 4920 controls USA	Pre-gestational (Type 1 or 2)	Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia	Increased risk (OR 12.53; 95%CI 2.40-65.43)
Correa et al. 2008 (33)	Registry-based case-control 13 030 newborns with birth defects + 4895 controls USA	Pre-gestational (Type 1 or 2)	Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia	Increased risk (OR 4.70; 95%CI 1.02-21.60)

CI, confidence interval; GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; HR, hazard ratio; IRR, incidence rate ratio; OR, odds ratio; RR, relative risk; VLBW, very low birthweight.

Table 2. Summary of human studies reporting associations of diabetes in pregnancy and respiratory outcomes in infants and children.

Study	Population and Setting	Type of Diabetes in Pregnancy	Respiratory Outcome (age)	Association
Zugna et al. 2015 (36)	Meta-analysis 85 509 infants 14 European cohorts	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Wheezing (age 2 years)	No association (ever wheezing: RR 1.04; 95% CI 0.97–1.13; recurrent wheezing: RR 1.24, 95% CI; 0.86–1.79)
Rusconi et al. 2007 (37)	Retrospective cohort 15 609 children Italy	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Wheezing (age 6 years)	Increased risk (OR 1.84; 95% CI 1.06-3.20)
Kumar et al. 2009 (52)	Retrospective cohort 680 children USA	GDM	Allergic sensitization (age 3 years)	Increased risk in term infants only (OR 6.05; 95%CI 1.17-31.18)
Risnes et al. 2011 (45)	Prospective cohort 1401 children USA	Unspecified	Asthma (age 6 years)	Increased risk (OR 3.63; 95% CI 1.46-9.04)
Haataja et al. 2016 (46)	Registry-based cohort 1.1 million children Finland	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Asthma (age 7 years)	Increased risk (mild preterm: HR 1.62; 95% CI 1.02-2.58; full term: HR 1.09; 95% CI 0.99-1.21)
Azad et al. 2013 (43)	Retrospective cohort 3574 children Canada	Unspecified	Asthma (age 7 years)	Increased risk and effect modification: synergistic effects with maternal asthma and environmental tobacco smoke
Aspberg et al. 2010 (44)	Registry-based cohort 1.3 million children Sweden	Pre-gestational and GDM (combined)	Asthma (age 12 years)	Increased risk (OR 1.19; 95% CI 1.12-1.28)

CI, confidence interval; GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; HR, hazard ratio; IRR, incidence rate ratio; OR, odds ratio; RR, relative risk.

Table 3. Summary of evidence from animal models linking maternal diabetes in pregnancy with fetal lung development and lung health in offspring.

Type of Diabetes	Animal Model	Impact on respiratory health of offspring	Studies
Type 1 Diabetes	Streptozotocin-treated rats	Delayed differentiation of type II pneumocytes cells, decreased pneumocytes, reduced surfactant proteins, altered surfactant phospholipids	Gewolb et al. 1985 (60), Rieutort et al. 1986 (62), Singh et al. 1983 (63), Nijjar et al. 1984 (64), Moglia et al. 1996 (65) Treviño-Alanís et al. 2009 (58)
	Alloxan-treated rabbits	Reduced prostaglandin E2 affecting organogenesis	Tsai et al. 1982 (68)
	Bio-Breeding (BB) rats	Delayed lung maturation, reduced insulin receptor expression on lung tissue	Mulay et al. 1983 (61)
	Non-obese diabetic (NOD) mice	Unknown	N/A
Type 2 Diabetes	Leptin-deficient ob/ob mice; Leptin-resistant db/db mice	Unknown (infertile)	N/A
	Gestational Diabetes	Leptin-deficient db/+ mice	Delayed lung maturation, altered pulmonary phospholipid expression
	Diet-induced GDM	Unknown	N/A

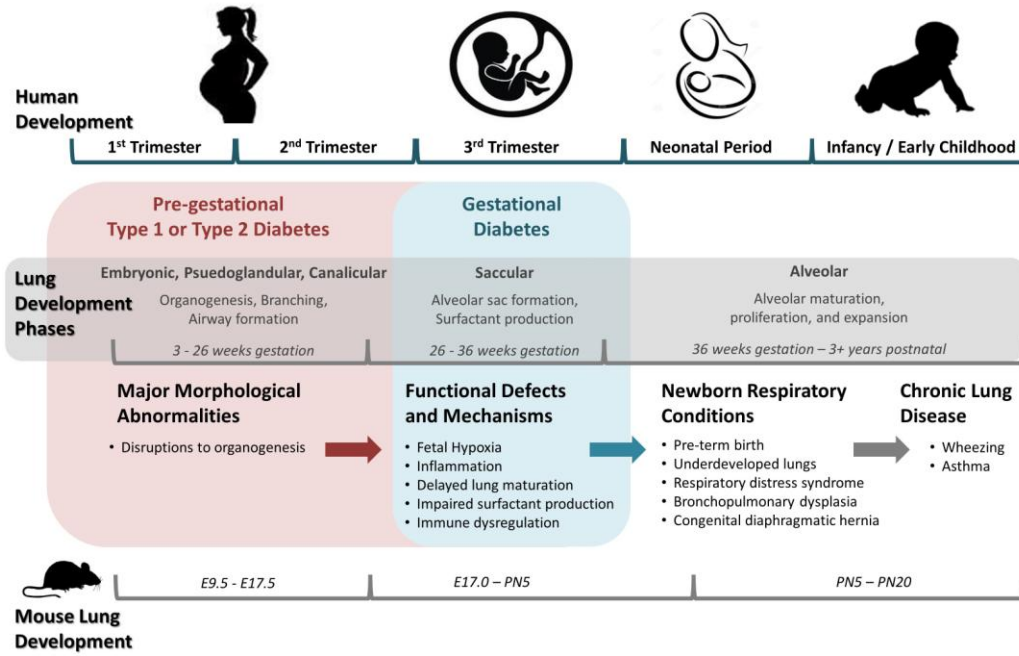


Figure 1. Diabetes in pregnancy and lung health in offspring. Timeline of human and mouse lung development overlapping with *in utero* exposure to maternal pre-gestational or gestational diabetes, and potential respiratory outcomes at birth and during early childhood. E=embryonic; PN=postnatal.

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