

## RESEARCH

# Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors during pregnancy and risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension in the newborn: population based cohort study from the five Nordic countries

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## Abstract

**Objective** To assess whether maternal use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) increases the risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension in the newborn, and whether such an effect might differ between specific SSRIs.

**Design** Population based cohort study using data from the national health registers.

**Setting** Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, 1996-2007.

**Participants** More than 1.6 million infants born after gestational week 33.

**Main outcome measures** Risks of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn associated with early and late exposure to SSRIs during pregnancy and adjusted for important maternal and pregnancy characteristics. Comparisons were made between infants exposed and not exposed to SSRIs.

**Results** Around 30 000 women had used SSRIs during pregnancy and 11 014 had been dispensed an SSRI later than gestational week 20. Exposure to SSRIs in late pregnancy was associated with an increased risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension in the newborn: 33 of 11 014

exposed infants (absolute risk 3 per 1000 liveborn infants compared with the background incidence of 1.2 per 1000); adjusted odds ratio 2.1 (95% confidence interval 1.5 to 3.0). The increased risks of persistent pulmonary hypertension in the newborn for each of the specific SSRIs (sertraline, citalopram, paroxetine, and fluoxetine) were of similar magnitude. Filling a prescription with SSRIs before gestational week 8 yielded slightly increased risks: adjusted odds ratio 1.4 (95% confidence interval 1.0 to 2.0).

**Conclusions** The risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is low, but use of SSRIs in late pregnancy increases that risk more than twofold. The increased risk seems to be a class effect.

## Introduction

Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is a life threatening condition that occurs in up to 2 per 1000 liveborn infants and most often in those born full term or post term.<sup>1-3</sup> In this condition the pulmonary vascular resistance fails to decrease after birth and the ductus arteriosus must remain open to ensure circulation. Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn and persistent fetal circulation are often used synonymously.

Several perinatal risk factors for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn are recognised, including maternal overweight, smoking, diabetes, or use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs during pregnancy.<sup>4</sup> The pathophysiology is not clearly mapped out, but persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn might result from constricted pulmonary vasculature or because the vasculature is hypoplastic or remodelled.<sup>3</sup> The constricted form is most commonly caused by meconium aspiration, the hypoplastic form can be seen in connection with diaphragmatic hernia, and presumably certain drugs can cause a remodelling of the vasculature.

Depression during pregnancy is common, and estimated rates vary from 7% to 25%.<sup>5,6</sup> Use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) is increasing among pregnant women, and use in late pregnancy may be a risk factor for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn.<sup>7</sup> During the past 15 years six studies have specifically assessed this association, with inconsistent findings from no association to a sixfold increased risk.<sup>7-12</sup> All the previous studies lacked statistical power for more detailed analyses, particularly the assessment of specific SSRIs.

To assess the association between SSRIs and persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn we carried out a multinational cohort study totalling more than 1.6 million births. Based on the findings in the previous studies we focused on exposure to SSRIs or specific SSRIs in late pregnancy. To address confounding by indication we also assessed the consequences of being exposed only in early pregnancy and calculated the risks for women with a previous psychiatric history and no use of SSRIs during pregnancy. As the mechanism behind a possible association between SSRIs and persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is unknown but might be generated through increased levels of serotonin or norepinephrine, we also assessed the risks associated with other antidepressants with an effect on serotonin or norepinephrine activity. Finally, we assessed the risks after excluding infants with meconium aspiration, which is the most common cause of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn.

## Methods

We included women and their infants born in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, or Sweden between 1996 and 2007. Each Nordic country has national registers, which include prospectively collected information on the health of all inhabitants. All registers include the civil registration number of each resident, a unique number assigned at birth or immigration. From all five countries we obtained data from the medical birth registers, the prescription registers, and the cause of death registers. From the patient registers in Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Finland and from the Danish Psychiatric Central Register we included data on the mother's previous psychiatric diseases and infant diagnoses. Reporting to the registers is mandatory and regulated by national laws. The parliaments in the Nordic countries have on behalf of their populations given informed consent to be included in the registers.<sup>13</sup>

The Nordic birth registers include data on maternal characteristics, the pregnancy, delivery, and neonatal period.<sup>14</sup> Complications are recorded according to the *International Classification of Diseases* and for the study period ICD-10 (10th revision) codes were used. Gestational age was primarily based on estimation of the last menstrual period using prenatal ultrasound. Since the mid-90s, ultrasound for determination of

gestational length has been offered to all pregnant women in the Nordic countries.<sup>15-19</sup> The prescription registers include data on dispensed items, substances, brand names, and formulations, together with the date of dispensing. All drugs are classified according to the World Health Organization Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification. In general, prescriptions are filled for a maximum of three months.<sup>20</sup> The patient registers in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden record information on admissions to hospital, including date of admission and discharge and primary and secondary diagnoses. The Danish Psychiatric Central Register includes information on psychiatric diseases.<sup>21</sup> In each national cause of death register the date and cause of death are recorded for those who at the time of death were resident in the country. All diagnoses and causes of death are classified according to the current *International Classification of Diseases*.

## Participants

We identified all singletons born after 231 gestational days (33 weeks) between 1996 and 2007. Only births were included from the years when prescription data were available. Accordingly we included births from: Denmark 1997-2007, Finland 1996-2006, Iceland 2003-7, Norway 2005-7, and Sweden 2006-7. From the registers we obtained information on persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, level of delivery hospital, maternal smoking, body mass index in early pregnancy, year of birth, mode of delivery, gestational age at birth, birth weight, meconium aspiration, and maternal diseases recorded during pregnancy. Maternal diseases included epilepsy, malignancies, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, and arthritis in connection with psoriasis or inflammatory bowel disease, inflammatory bowel disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, and hypertension or pre-eclampsia. We also obtained information on the mothers' admissions to hospital for a psychiatric diagnosis during the 10 years before giving birth and identified women who had filled prescriptions for antidepressants, antidiabetes drugs, or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs from three months before the start of pregnancy until delivery. Start of pregnancy was defined as the first day of the estimated last menstrual period according to the ultrasound examination in the first or second trimester. Small for gestational age was defined as a birth weight of two standard deviations or more below the mean birth weight according to sex specific fetal growth curves.<sup>22</sup>

## Exposures

The SSRIs used during the study period and included in the analyses were fluoxetine, citalopram, paroxetine, sertraline, fluvoxamine, and escitalopram. In subanalyses we studied whether other antidepressants with an effect on serotonin activity or norepinephrine activity (clomipramine, venlafaxine, imipramine, amitriptyline, duloxetine, dosulepine, milnacipran, trazodone, nefazodone, and morklobemide) would affect the risks of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. We categorised use as ever use (from three months before the start of pregnancy until birth), as a filled prescription in late pregnancy (from 140 days after the start of pregnancy until birth), or in early pregnancy only (from three months before the start of pregnancy until a pregnancy length of 55 days).

## Outcome measures

As a main outcome we included infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn recorded as an ICD-10 code P29.3 or I27.0, if diagnosed within seven days of birth. In

the countries where it was available we also evaluated infants with a diagnosis according to a national ICD-10 subcode of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (P29.3A in Denmark, P29.31 in Finland, and P29.3B in Sweden). Potential confounders included maternal smoking, age, body mass index, purchased non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and antidiabetes drugs, and diseases recorded during pregnancy, level of delivery hospital (university or non-university hospital), and infants' country of birth, birth year, and birth order.

## Statistical analyses

We used logistic regression analysis to compare the risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn with regard to exposure status of antidepressants during pregnancy, and computed crude and adjusted odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals. In our primary analyses we assessed risks after exposures to any SSRI and to specific SSRIs in late pregnancy. The analyses were repeated after excluding infants who also had a diagnosis of meconium aspiration and for exposure to the other antidepressants with effect on serotonin activity or norepinephrine activity. As smoking and body mass index in an analysis carried out in a subset did not confound the results we precluded these variables from further analyses. In additional analyses we assessed risks after exposures in early pregnancy. To test whether growth restriction or mode of delivery modified the effect of exposure to SSRIs, we carried out interaction analyses including small for gestational age and caesarean delivery as effect modifiers and tested how they affected the risk estimates by introducing them one by one into the model. We calculated the absolute risk for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn after exposure to any SSRI in late pregnancy. Finally, we assessed the odds ratios of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn for women with a previous hospital stay for a psychiatric disorder but not using antidepressants during pregnancy and for women with a previous psychiatric hospital stay and using antidepressants in late pregnancy.

All analyses were done using SAS software, version 9.2.

## Results

In total, 1 618 255 singleton births were included in the study. Of these, 11 014 (0.7%) of the mothers had filled a prescription for an SSRI during late pregnancy and 17 053 (1.1%) in early pregnancy only. The mothers who had filled a prescription for an SSRI were generally older and more often smokers than mothers not using SSRIs. The exposed infants had a shorter gestational age at birth and were more often classified as small for gestational age (table 1⇓).

Table 2⇓ presents the distribution of the different SSRIs according to time of use. In late pregnancy, 627 women had filled a prescription for an antidepressant with an effect on serotonin activity or norepinephrine activity. The corresponding figure for early pregnancy only was 2503. Of 63 615 women with a previous psychiatric diagnosis, 54 184 had not filled a prescription for any of the antidepressants during pregnancy. Among the 11 014 infants exposed to an SSRI in late pregnancy, 33 had a diagnosis of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, of whom three had meconium aspiration. The corresponding figure for those exposed to antidepressants with an effect on serotonin activity or norepinephrine activity was three. Of the 17 053 infants exposed only in early pregnancy, 32 had persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. The corresponding figure for the 1 588 40 never exposed was 1935. Tables 3⇓ and 4⇓ show the exposure by substance and time in

pregnancy. Of the infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, three of the 33 infants exposed in late pregnancy died as well as 183 of the 1935 who were never exposed. Among the women with a previous admission to hospital for a psychiatric disorder, 114 infants had a diagnosis of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn.

## Risks of exposure in late pregnancy

The risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn after exposure to any SSRI in late pregnancy was more than doubled: adjusted odds ratio 2.1 (95% confidence interval 1.5 to 3.0, table 3). In the additional analyses assessing only infants with a diagnosis according to national subcodes for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, the increase in risk was 2.2 (1.2 to 3.9). After excluding infants with meconium aspiration, the risk estimates increased slightly. For fluoxetine, citalopram, sertraline, and paroxetine the risk estimates ranged from two to three (table 3). The risk estimate for escitalopram was lower, but imprecise. No infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn had been exposed to fluvoxamine. Exposure to the other antidepressants with an effect on serotonin activity or norepinephrine activity also generated increased risks (2.9, 0.9 to 8.9). Neither small for gestational age nor caesarean delivery modified the risks ( $P>0.18$ ), and the effects were not mediated through these variables. The absolute risk for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn was 3 per 1000.

## Risks of exposure in early pregnancy and after a previous psychiatric diagnosis

Risks for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn were slightly increased in association with exposure to SSRIs in early pregnancy, only (table 4). Exposure to the other antidepressants with effect on serotonin activity or norepinephrine activity did not increase the risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (0.6, 0.1 to 2.3). The odds ratios associated with exposure to specific SSRIs in early pregnancy varied from 0.3 to 1.9.

For women with a previous admission to hospital for a psychiatric disorder the risk for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn was slightly increased (1.3, 1.0 to 1.6) as well as after exclusion of infants with meconium aspiration (1.3, 1.1 to 1.7). The risk was not increased when estimated by the national subcodes (1.0, 0.6 to 1.6). The combination of a previous admission to hospital for a psychiatric disorder and exposure to an SSRI in late pregnancy yielded an adjusted odds ratio of 3.1 (1.9 to 4.9).

## Discussion

In this large multinational cohort study we found a robust association between exposure to SSRIs in late pregnancy and persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. Thus our findings constitute an important manifestation of the previous reported indications.<sup>7 10</sup> In addition, the increased risks seemed to be a class effect as the risk estimates for the different SSRIs were of similar magnitude.

## Strengths and limitations of the study

To ensure statistical power we included more than 1.6 million births, which allowed us to study specific SSRIs. Still, we identified only 33 infants exposed to an SSRI in late pregnancy and with a diagnosis of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. We used information from the Nordic health registers, and as the information is prospectively collected, recall

bias can be precluded. To our knowledge the ICD code for our outcome of interest has not been validated in any of the Nordic countries; however, measurement of exposure and outcome variables in the registers is generally accurate and other diagnoses have been found to have high validity.<sup>23-25</sup>

Additional strengths of the study include its multinational and population based design, encompassing virtually all births in the Nordic countries, which should assure the generalisability of the study results. Potential limitations include information on drug intake during pregnancy. Exposure to antidepressants was measured as dispensed drugs, which does not necessarily imply use of a drug.<sup>26</sup> However, fairly good agreement has been reported between use of antidepressants during pregnancy and dispensed drugs.<sup>27-28</sup> Also, misclassification of exposure would most likely be non-differential according to outcome status and, if anything, bias the risk estimates towards the null. We did not assess possible exposures to more than one antidepressant, but considering the short exposure periods of less than five months it seems unlikely to have occurred, at least to a greater extent. For the outcomes, we used the ICD codes recorded in the registers, and persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn shares the ICD code with symptomatic patent ductus arteriosus. However, as symptomatic patent ductus arteriosus is seen almost exclusively in very preterm infants, we assume that our restriction to include only infants born in gestational week 33 or later supports an association with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn and not with symptomatic patent ductus arteriosus. This assumption is strengthened by our similar risk estimates, whether we used the broader ICD codes or the national subcodes. Also, the incidence of 1.2 per 1000 liveborn infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is in accordance with the expected number of affected infants. To further improve the identification of infants with the type of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, which might be associated with drug exposures, we excluded infants with meconium aspiration and found no major differences in risks.

### Indicating a serotonin effect

The mechanism by which SSRIs may affect the pulmonary vasculature and cause persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn remains unknown. However, possible contributing factors include the accumulation of SSRIs in the lungs, together with the potential of serotonins to induce vasoconstriction and to mediate pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cell proliferation through the serotonin transporter.<sup>29-34</sup> The increased risks associated with exposure to SSRI and to other antidepressants with selectivity for serotonin or norepinephrine in late pregnancy could support a causal effect of serotonin. Also, the similar increases in risk after use of specific types of SSRIs points to a common factor among the different substances.

### Comparison with other studies

Our result of an increased risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn in association with exposure to SSRI in late pregnancy is in accordance with what has been reported in two previous studies, except for our lower risk estimate.<sup>7-10</sup> One of the studies<sup>10</sup> also used register data, but only from the Swedish medical birth register, and exposure to SSRI was based on self reported use, mainly in early pregnancy. Accordingly, use in late pregnancy could not be satisfactorily assessed in that study. In contrast to the results reported by another study<sup>7</sup> but in accordance with those by the Swedish register based study,<sup>10</sup> we found slightly increased risks after exposure to SSRIs in early pregnancy. The estimates were, however, imprecise. Unexpectedly, we also found a slightly

increased risk among women with a previous admission to hospital for a psychiatric disorder who had not been dispensed antidepressants from three months before pregnancy until birth. Some women might have been prescribed SSRIs before pregnancy or during early pregnancy but reduced their doses of SSRIs or stopped taking the drugs on planning or becoming aware of their pregnancy. Such behaviour could enable continued or resumed use of drugs later in pregnancy without them being newly dispensed. When the subcodes for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn were used there was, however, no increased risk with a previous psychiatric disease, which strengthens our suspicion of an association with the drug and not the underlying disease. None the less, the findings of slightly increased risks in association with a previous psychiatric diagnosis or dispensing of an SSRI in early pregnancy merit further investigations.

### Conclusion

Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is a rare disease and the absolute risks for this outcome for infants to mothers using SSRIs was as low as three infants per 1000 exposed. However, as the risk in association with treatment in late pregnancy seems to be more than doubled, we recommend caution when treating pregnant women with SSRIs. It is essential to plan the treatment and to weigh the risks of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn when treating women in late pregnancy with those of relapse of depression and neonatal abstinence syndrome if therapy is interrupted. For women where treatment with an SSRI is the only or best option, the choice of substance seems to be of minor importance.

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Contributors: HK had full access to all of the data in the study, takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis, and is guarantor. HK, KF, MG, MN, UV, and BH conceived and designed the study. MA, AE, MN, RBN, UN, and BH acquired the data in their countries. HK drafted the manuscript, obtained funding, and supervised the study. BH was responsible for the statistical analysis. All authors participated in interpreting the data and critically revising the manuscript.

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Ethical approval: This study was approved by the regional ethical review board at the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden (No 2008/1371-31/4); the Danish Data Protection Agency and the National Board of Health, Denmark; the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), the Social Insurance Institution of Finland and Statistics Finland, Finland; the National Bioethics Committee and the Data Protection Authority in Iceland, Iceland; and the Norwegian Data Inspectorate, Norway.

Data sharing: Codes from the *International Classification of Diseases* and *Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical* for the listed diseases and drugs are available from the corresponding author at [helle.kieler@ki.se](mailto:helle.kieler@ki.se).

**What is already known on this topic**

The population incidence of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn is 1.2 per 1000

It is unclear whether use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in pregnancy increases the risks of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn

The use of SSRIs during pregnancy is increasing

Around 15% of infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn will die

**What this study adds**

Use of SSRIs after gestational week 20 is associated with a doubled risk of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, to 3 per 1000 liveborn infants

Specific SSRIs have similar increased risks of persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, which suggests a class effect

Rare drug exposures and outcomes can be evaluated by combining data from the Nordic health registers

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## Tables

**Table 1 | Maternal and infant characteristics by exposure to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors**

Characteristics	No (%) exposed (n=30 115)	No (%) not exposed (n=1 588 140)	Total No (%) (n=1 618 255)
<b>Maternal age (years):</b>			
≤24	5473 (18.2)	258 474 (16.3)	263 947 (16.3)
25-34	18 105 (60.1)	1 053 684 (66.3)	1 071 789 (66.2)
35-44	6472 (21.5)	274 208 (17.3)	280 680 (17.3)
≥45	65 (0.2)	1774 (0.1)	1839 (0.1)
<b>Birth order:</b>			
1	12 930 (42.9)	669 026 (42.1)	681 956 (42.1)
2 or 3	14 101 (46.8)	798 481 (50.3)	812 582 (50.2)
≥4	2964 (9.8)	113 758 (7.2)	116 722 (7.2)
Missing	120 (0.4)	6875 (0.4)	6995 (0.4)
<b>Gestational age (weeks):</b>			
33-36	1629 (5.4)	60 758 (3.8)	62 387 (3.9)
37-41	27 065 (89.9)	1 425 414 (89.8)	1 452 479 (89.8)
42-45	1421 (4.7)	101 968 (6.4)	103 389 (6.4)
<b>Small for gestational age*:</b>			
No	29 164 (96.8)	1 545 233 (97.3)	1 574 397 (97.3)
Yes	891 (3.0)	38 438 (2.4)	39 329 (2.4)
Missing data	60 (0.2)	4469 (0.3)	4529 (0.3)
<b>Smoking in early pregnancy:</b>			
No	18 945 (62.9)	1 246 072 (78.5)	1 265 017 (78.2)
Yes	8303 (27.6)	244 258 (15.4)	252 561 (15.6)
Missing data	2867 (9.5)	97 810 (6.2)	100 677 (6.2)
<b>Mode of delivery:</b>			
Vaginal	23 768 (78.9)	1 334 843 (84.1)	1 358 611 (84.0)
Caesarean section	5721 (19.0)	216 926 (13.7)	222 647 (13.8)
Missing data	626 (2.1)	36 371 (2.3)	36 997 (2.3)
<b>Maternal use of NSAIDs:</b>			
No	26 318 (87.4)	1 486 008 (93.6)	1 512 326 (93.5)
Yes	3797 (12.6)	102 132 (6.4)	105 929 (6.5)
<b>Maternal use of drugs for diabetes:</b>			
No	29 512 (98.0)	1 572 534 (99.0)	1 602 046 (99.0)
Yes	603 (2.0)	15 606 (1.0)	16 209 (1.0)
<b>Apgar score at 5 minutes:</b>			
0-6	332 (1.1)	8752 (0.6)	9084 (0.6)
7-10	18 382 (61.0)	973 229 (61.3)	991 611 (61.3)
Missing data	11 401 (37.9)	606 159 (38.2)	617 560 (38.2)

NSAIDs= non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

\*Less than 2 standard deviations of sex specific mean birth weight.

Table 2| Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) according to time of dispensing (length of gestation)

Drugs	No of women dispensed SSRIs (per 1000)		
	<week 8 only	≥week 20	Ever
Any SSRI	17 053 (10.5)	11 014 (6.8)	30 115 (18.6)
Fluoxetine	3899 (2.4)	3315 (2.0)	7988 (4.9)
Citalopram	6816 (4.2)	3294 (2.0)	10 820 (6.7)
Paroxetine	2293 (1.4)	1281 (0.8)	3798 (2.3)
Sertraline	3396 (2.1)	2843 (1.8)	6696 (4.1)
Fluvoxamine	278 (0.2)	112 (0.1)	405 (0.3)
Escitalopram	2510 (1.6)	557 (0.3)	3247 (2.0)

**Table 3| Exposure to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in gestational week 20 or later and risk for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn**

Drugs	No of infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (per 1000)		Odds ratio (95% CI)	
	Not exposed	Exposed	Unadjusted	Adjusted*
Any SSRI	1899 (1.2)	33 (3.0)	2.5 (1.8 to 3.6)	2.1 (1.5 to 3.0)
Fluoxetine	1952 (1.2)	9 (2.7)	2.3 (1.2 to 4.3)	2.0 (1.0 to 3.8)
Citalopram	1936 (1.2)	11 (3.3)	2.8 (1.5 to 5.0)	2.3 (1.2 to 4.1)
Paroxetine	1959 (1.2)	5 (3.9)	3.2 (1.3 to 7.8)	2.8 (1.2 to 6.7)
Sertraline	1949 (1.2)	10 (3.5)	2.9 (1.6 to 5.4)	2.3 (1.3 to 4.4)
Escitalopram	1966 (1.2)	1 (1.8)	1.5 (0.2 to 10.5)	1.3 (0.2 to 9.5)

\*Adjusted for maternal age, dispensed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and antidiabetes drugs, pre-eclampsia, chronic diseases during pregnancy, country of birth, birth year, level of delivery hospital, and birth order.

**Table 4| Exposure to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) before gestational week 8 and risk for persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn**

Drugs	No of infants with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (per 1000)		Odds ratio (95% CI)	
	Not exposed	Exposed	Unadjusted	Adjusted*
Any SSRI	1899 (1.2)	32 (1.9)	1.6 (1.1 to 2.2)	1.4 (1.0 to 2.0)
Fluoxetine	1952 (1.2)	7 (1.8)	1.5 (0.7 to 3.1)	1.3 (0.6 to 2.8)
Citalopram	1936 (1.2)	17 (2.5)	2.1 (1.3 to 3.4)	1.8 (1.1 to 3.0)
Paroxetine	1959 (1.2)	4 (1.7)	1.4 (0.5 to 3.8)	1.3 (0.5 to 3.5)
Sertraline	1949 (1.2)	9 (2.7)	2.2 (1.1 to 4.2)	1.9 (1.0 to 3.6)
Escitalopram	1966 (1.2)	1 (0.4)	0.3 (0.0 to 2.3)	0.3 (0.0 to 2.2)

\*Adjusted for maternal age, dispensed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and antidiabetes drugs, pre-eclampsia, chronic diseases during pregnancy, country of birth, birth year, level of delivery hospital, and birth order.