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Ultrasound in Pregnancy

Written by Pathways Magazine
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Studies have suggested that these effects are of real concern in living tissues:

- Cell abnormalities caused by exposure to ultrasound were seen to persist for several generations.
- In newborn rats (similar stage of development as human fetuses at four to five months in utero), ultrasound can damage the myelin that covers nerves.
- Exposing mice to dosages typical of obstetric ultrasound caused a 22% reduction in the rate of cell division and doubling of the rate of apoptosis (programmed cell death), in the cells of the small intestine.
- Two long-term randomized controlled trials comparing exposed and unexposed children's development at eight to nine years old found no measurable effect from ultrasound. However, the authors comment that intensities used today are many times higher than there were in 1979 and 1981.

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Routine ultrasound dating has not been shown to be more accurate than detection in labor.

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