BACKGROUND

- Increased use of marijuana in pregnancy is a significant problem and poses potential health risks for the developing fetus.
- Exposure to THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), principle chemical component of marijuana, may produce long-term consequences on behavior and psychopathology in children.
- Limited studies evaluating the impact of prenatal exposure to THC on neurodevelopmental outcomes in children.

OBJECTIVE

- To examine the impact of intrauterine marijuana exposure on neurodevelopmental outcomes during the first 24 months of life.

METHODS

- Retrospective, case-control study
- Cases: patients with intrauterine exposure to THC confirmed by positive maternal urine testing for THC during any trimester of pregnancy.
- Controls: patients without intrauterine THC exposure matched 2:1 by age, sex and race.
- Chart review to assess attainment of developmental milestones in well-child visits.

RESULTS

- Prenatal marijuana exposure was associated with any developmental delay at 15 and 18 months of age.
- Fine motor and social developmental domains were delayed in infants exposed to marijuana.
- Physicians and parents should be aware of the potential impact of marijuana on postnatal neurodevelopmental milestones.
- Future studies should examine this relationship using a prospective study design.

REFERENCES