



Aalborg Universitet

AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Is induction of labor from 37 to 41 weeks per se associated with lower offspring school performance?

Krogh, Lise Qvirin; Glavind, Julie; Fuglsang, Jens; Henriksen, Tine Brink; Boie, Sidsel

Published in:
Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica

DOI (link to publication from Publisher):
[10.1111/aogs.14588](https://doi.org/10.1111/aogs.14588)

Creative Commons License
CC BY-NC 4.0

Publication date:
2023

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Krogh, L. Q., Glavind, J., Fuglsang, J., Henriksen, T. B., & Boie, S. (2023). Is induction of labor from 37 to 41 weeks per se associated with lower offspring school performance? *Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, 102(8), 1135. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aogs.14588>

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal -

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is induction of labor from 37 to 41 weeks per se associated with lower offspring school performance?

Sir,

We read with great interest the paper by Burger et al.¹ on whether elective induction of labor (IOL) may influence offspring school performance at 12 years of age after uncomplicated pregnancies.¹ We acknowledge the importance of the question raised. The authors conclude that with a fetus at risk approach, IOL is associated with significantly lower offspring school performance at age 12 and lower secondary school level compared with non-intervention from 37 to 41 weeks and suggest that this information be conveyed to pregnant women prior to IOL.

The authors do acknowledge that residual confounding may exist. However, we believe that the authors underestimate the potential role of confounding by the indication of IOL. Even though women with medical indications for IOL (non-singleton, hypertension, diabetes, fetal growth restriction, and malformations) were excluded from the study, the decision to induce labor at term might include several unknown factors that cannot easily be adjusted for. In clinical practice many or even most cases follow strict indications for IOL that are not confined to the indications excluded. Therefore, the extent to which IOL as exposure can be considered a proxy for the indication for IOL should be considered. We believe that the risk of confounding by indication is likely to be present yet in the study and may affect the presented estimates.

The absolute differences in mean school performance by gestational week are subtle (i.e., a mean score of 535 vs. 536.2 at 37 weeks, 536 vs. 536.6 at 42 weeks with standard deviations around 9.7). Bias introduced by confounding by indication might distort the association on school performance in either direction. So, do the findings of this study entitle a change in the counseling and decision-making around IOL?

Randomized trials including long-term follow up on selected outcomes are warranted. We urge conclusions based on observational studies to reflect the limitations of the design, and we think the question on whether IOL may affect school performance remains uncertain from the presented data.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

JF is an Associate Editor of AOGS.

Lise Qvirin Krogh¹ 

Julie Glavind¹ 

Jens Fuglsang² 

Tine Brink Henriksen³

Sidsel Boie⁴

¹Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University & Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark

²Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University, Steno Diabetes Center, Aarhus University Hospital & Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark

³Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University & Department of Pediatrics, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark

⁴Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Aalborg University Hospital & Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark

Correspondence

Lise Qvirin Krogh, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University & Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark.
Email: lise.qvirin.krogh@clin.au.dk

ORCID

Lise Qvirin Krogh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7397-4576>

Julie Glavind  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9856-6621>

Jens Fuglsang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0181-1986>

REFERENCE

1. Burger RJ, Mol BW, Ganzevoort W, et al. Offspring school performance at age 12 after induction of labor vs non-intervention at term: a linked cohort study. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand*. 2023;102:486-495.

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.

© 2023 The Authors. *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NFOG).