Maternal Thyroid Disease Possible Risk Factor for Craniosynostosis

BY DOUG BRUNK
San Diego Bureau

TUCSON, ARIZ. — Maternal thyroid disease or its treatment may increase the risk of craniosynostosis in offspring by nearly threefold, preliminary results from an ongoing study suggest.

The finding is important because thyroid disease is the second most common endocrinopathy, after diabetes, in women of reproductive age. Dr. Sonja A. Rasmussen said at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology guidelines on immunologic thrombocytopenia, last updated in 1996, state that thrombocytopenia may be due to immune mechanism, such as an increase in serum thyroid-stimulating antibodies, or because of maternal hyperthyroidism, which affects platelet counts, she said.

Treated hyperthyroidism in the current study did not influence the long-term course of the thrombocytopenia. Dr. Ioachimescu said.

Test Thyroid Function in Thrombocytopenia

BY PATRICE WENDLING
Chicago Bureau

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The finding argues for routine screening for thyroid disease in patients with immunologic thrombocytopenia. The study also indicated that treating the thyroid disease did not influence the long-term course of the thrombocytopenia, Dr. Adriana Ioachimescu and her colleagues at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation reported in a poster at the annual meeting of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

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