

SUPPLEMENT

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Table S1. Overview of the studies about the association between breastfeeding and risk of ASD.

Year	Author	Country	group	Sample size	Age	Outcome definition		Exposure definition	OR/ RR (95%CI)
						Diagnostic procedure	Diagnostic criterion		
Case-control									
2018	Bittker ^[1]	USA	ASD Controls	1,001 514	3-12 years	Parent-report	NA	Breastfeeding (months)	0.948 (0.932-0.965)
2018	Manohar ^[2]	India	ASD TD siblings	30 30	2-6 years	Standard assessment (CARS)	DSM-5	Compares exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months with no exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months	0.167 (0.025–0.65)
2016	Say ^[3]	Turkey	ASD ADHD Controls	98 96 79	3-18 years	Diagnostic procedure by an expert child and adolescent psychiatrist	DSM-IV	Compares never breastfeeding with 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months and ≥ 24 months	0.23 (0.02–2.06), 0.22 (0.02–1.92), 0.2 (0.02–1.76), 0.21 (0.02–1.98) and 0.53 (0.04–6.65)
2014	Field ^[4]	USA	ASD ADHD Controls	31 81 612	NA	Diagnostic procedure by an expert child and adolescent psychiatrist	DSM-IV-TR	Compares benefits of breastfeeding < 4 months and ≥ 4 months	Unreported
2014	George ^[5]	India	ASD Controls	143 200	2-6 years	Standard assessment (CARS)	NA	Compares breastfeeding duration nil / < 6 month with ≥ 6 months	3.4 (1.28-8.99)
2014	Brown ^[6]	Australia	ASD TD siblings	19 23	NA	Administrative databases	NA	Compared first hour feeding with late initiation of breastfeeding	0.26(0.07-0.89)
2014	Shafai ^[7]	USA	PDD Controls	60 85	ND	Parent-report	NA	Assess benefits of breastfeeding < 2 months, 2–4 months, 4–6 months, 6–9	Unreported

						child and adolescent psychiatrist		month, 1–2 months, 2–3 months, 3–6 months, 6–12 months, and ≥ 12 months	0.23 (0.10-0.51), and 0.27 (0.12-0.57)
1988	Burd ^[12]	USA	PDD Controls	50 50	9.0±4.6 years 8.8±4.7 years	Diagnostic procedure by an expert child and adolescent psychiatrist	DSM-III	NA	Unreported
Cohort									
2018	Lemcke ^[13]	Denmark	ASD ID Total	973 300 76,322	Men age = 11 years	NA	ICD-10	Give up exclusive breastfeeding within the first 3 months Continued breastfeeding after 6 months Compares ever breastfeeding with never breastfeeding at discharge	HR=1.8-1.9 HR=0.7-0.8
2011	Dodds ^[14]	Canada	ASD Normal	924 128,809	1-17 years	Administrative databases	ICD-9 or ICD 10	Compares ever breastfeeding with never breastfeeding at discharge	1.15 (1.01-1.31)
Cross-sectional									
2021	Kim ^[15]	Korea	ASD Total	606 374,074	6 months till 10 years of age	Administrative databases	ICD-10	Compared exclusive breastfeeding with formula feeding during the first 4 to 6 months	0.72 (0.57-0.89)
2021	Jing ^[16]	China	autistic trait Total	2074 67,578	4.61±0.88 years	Screening by Autism Behavior Checklist (ABC)	Undiagnosed	Compared exclusive breastfeeding or mixed feeding with never breastfeeding	0.773 (0.676-0.884)
2019	Soke ^[17]	USA	ASD Controls	673 876	30-68 months	Screening and diagnostic procedure with standard assessment	DSM-IV	Compared breastfeeding initiation with never breastfeeding Compared duration of breastfeeding in the high tertile(12 months) with	0.88 (0.60-1.28) 0.61(0.45-0.84) 0.72 (0.54-0.98)

						(ADOS, ADI-R)		low(<6 months) or the middle(6-<12 months)	
2017	Boucher ^[18]	Spanish	Autistic trait	1,346	4-6.9 year	Screening by the Spanish version of the Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST)	Undiagnosed	Compared duration of any breastfeeding(months) Compared duration of predominant breastfeeding(months) Compared duration of exclusive breastfeeding (months) Compared late initiation of breastfeeding and early initiation Compared exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months with no Any partial breastfeeding Exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months Each additional month of partial breastfeeding Each additional month of exclusive breastfeeding Compares benefits of ever breastfeeding, at 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months	1.00(0.95,1.05) 0.98 (0.87,1.10) 1.02 (0.86-1.22) 3.9 (1.83-8.39) 0.2 (0.05-0.91) 0.68 (0.4-1.3) 0.74 (0.3-1.7) 1.03 (0.97-1.10) 1.04(.096-1.13) Unreported
2016	Ravi ^[19]	India	High-risk ASD Low/Medium ASD	33 317	16-30 months	Screening by Modified Checklist of Autism in Toddlers, Revised(M-CHAT-R)	Undiagnosed		
2015	Husk ^[20]	USA	ASD Controls	391 37,901	2-5years	Parent-report	DSM-IV		
2011	Shamberger ^[21]	USA	ASD Controls	NA	3-21 years	NA	NA		

Abbreviations: ASD, autism spectrum disorder; DSM- 5, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition; DSM-IV-TR, the text revision of the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; DSM-IV, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition; DSM-III, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition; ICD-9, International Classification of

Diseases, Ninth Revision; ICD-10, International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision;

Table S2 Comparison of demographic characteristics of participants with or without the information of questionnaires

Characteristics*	Children without questionnaires (N=1,879)	Children with questionnaires (N =6,049)	Overall (N =7,928)	P value
	No. (%) / Mean (SD)	No. (%) / Mean (SD)	No. (%) / Mean (SD)	
Child age, months	22.7 (3.8)	22.7 (4.1)	22.7 (4.0)	.71
Child gender				
Male	1,027 (55.7%)	3,364 (55.6%)	4,391 (55.6%)	.97
Female	818 (44.3%)	2,685 (44.4%)	3,503 (44.4%)	
Only child				
Yes	514 (29.1%)	1,772 (29.3%)	2,286 (29.2%)	.87
No	1,253 (70.9%)	4,277 (70.7%)	5,530 (70.8%)	
Maternal education*				.07
Less than high school	441 (24.1%)	1,045 (17.3%)	1,486 (18.9%)	
Completed high school	962 (52.5%)	3,188 (52.7%)	4,150 (52.7%)	
College degree	315 (17.2%)	1,407 (23.3%)	1,722 (21.8%)	
Advanced degree	115 (6.3%)	409 (6.8%)	524 (6.6%)	

Abbreviations: SD, Standard deviation

*Among those who did not have a questionnaire, 34 were missing in gender, 112 were missing in only child and 148 were missing in mother's education level. The information was complete among those who had the questionnaire.

Table S3 Demographic information and maternal risk factors during pregnancy between toddlers with and without ASD

Characteristic	Mean (SD) /No. (%)			P value
	Children without ASD (N=5,978)	Children with ASD (N=71)	Total sample (N=6,049)	
Child age (month)	22.7±4.1	24.3±3.6	22.7±4.1	< .01
Child gender				
Male	3,302(55.2)	62(87.3)	3,364(55.6)	< .01
Female	2,676(44.8)	9(12.7)	2,685(44.4)	
Only child				
Yes	4,229(70.7)	48(67.6)	4,277(70.7)	.56
No	1,749(29.3)	23(32.4)	1,772(29.3)	
Preterm birth				
Yes	503(8.4)	4(5.6)	507(8.4)	.40
No	5,475(91.6)	67(94.4)	5,542(91.6)	
Maternal age				
≤24 years	1,031 (17.2)	14 (19.7)	1,045 (17.3)	.94
25-29 years	3,151 (52.7)	37 (52.1)	3,188 (52.7)	
30-34 years	1,391 (23.3)	16 (22.5)	1,407 (23.3)	
≥35 years	405 (6.8)	4 (5.6)	409 (6.8)	
Maternal education level				
Primary school and below	661 (11.1)	16 (22.5)	677 (11.2)	< .01
Middle school	1,269 (21.2)	20 (28.2)	1,289 (21.3)	
College degree	3,737 (62.5)	31 (43.7)	3,768 (62.3)	
Advanced degree	311 (5.2)	4 (5.6)	315 (5.2)	
Yearly household income				
≤¥100, 000	2,122 (35.5)	31 (43.7)	2,153 (35.6)	.35
¥100, 000-¥300, 000	2,293 (38.4)	21 (29.6)	2,314 (38.3)	
≥¥300, 000	457 (7.6)	7 (9.9)	464 (7.7)	
Not reported	1,106 (18.5)	12 (16.9)	1,118 (18.5)	
Ethnic background				
Han	5,605 (93.8)	69 (97.2)	5,674 (93.8)	.23
Other	373 (6.2)	2 (2.8)	375 (6.2)	
Complications during pregnancy				
Yes	849 (14.2)	11 (15.5)	860 (14.2)	.76
No	5,129 (85.8)	60 (84.5)	5,189 (85.8)	
Depression during pregnancy				
Yes	1459 (24.4)	27 (38.0)	1,486 (24.6)	< .01
No	4,519 (75.6)	44 (62.0)	4,563 (75.4)	
Second-hand smoke exposure during pregnancy				
Yes	825 (13.8)	18 (25.4)	843 (13.9)	<.01
No	5,153 (86.2)	53 (74.6)	5,206 (86.1)	
Pre-pregnancy overweight/obesity				
Yes	465 (7.8)	7 (9.9)	472 (7.8)	.52
No	5,513 (92.2)	64 (90.1)	5,577 (92.2)	

Abbreviations: SD, Standard deviation

Table S4 Comparison of breastfeeding status under the first six months among toddlers with and without ASD

	Total sample (N=6049) N (%)	Toddlers without ASD (N=5,978) N (%)	Toddlers with ASD (N=71) N (%)	<i>P</i> value
Exclusive breastfeeding	2,950 (48.8)	2,929 (49.0)	21(29.6)	<.01
Partial breastfeeding	2,551 (42.2)	2,514 (42.1)	37(52.1)	
Not breastfeeding	548 (9.1)	535 (8.9)	13(18.3)	

Table S5 Prevalence of ASD associated with breastfeeding during the first six months among toddlers

	No.	Toddlers with ASD
		n (%)
Total	6,049	71(1.2)
Breastfeeding status for the first six months		
Exclusive breastfeeding	2,950	21(0.7)
Partial breastfeeding	2,551	37(1.5)
Not breastfeeding	548	13(2.4)

Table S6 The associations between breastfeeding status under the first six months by using Firth's Bias-Reduced Logistic Regression

	Adjusted model	
	OR (95%CI)	<i>P</i> value
Breastfeeding status for the first six months		
Exclusive breastfeeding	1[Reference]	
Partial breastfeeding	1.53(0.90, 2.68)	0.12
Not breastfeeding	2.35(1.12, 4.75)	0.02

The model was adjusted for child's age, gender, only child, maternal age, maternal education level, yearly household income, ethnic background, study area, preterm birth, pregnancy information (complications and depression during pregnancy), second-hand smoke exposure and overweight/obesity before pregnancy.

Table S7 The associations between breastfeeding status under the first six months and ASD when restricting toddlers in full-term birth

	Adjusted model	
	OR (95%CI)	<i>P</i> value
Breastfeeding status for the first six months		
Exclusive breastfeeding	1[Reference]	
Partial breastfeeding	1.52(0.87, 2.73)	0.15
Not breastfeeding	2.77(1.30, 5.73)	0.01

The model was adjusted for child's age, gender, only child, maternal age, maternal education level, yearly household income, ethnic background, study area, pregnancy information (complications and depression during pregnancy), second-hand smoke exposure and overweight/obesity before pregnancy.

Table S8 The associations between breastfeeding status under the first six months and ASD when restricting mothers of toddlers without complications during pregnancy

	Adjusted model	
	OR (95%CI)	<i>P</i> value
Breastfeeding status for the first six months		
Exclusive breastfeeding	1[Reference]	
Partial breastfeeding	1.66(0.92, 3.11)	0.10
Not breastfeeding	2.61(1.18, 5.64)	0.02

The model was adjusted for child's age, gender, only child, maternal age, maternal education level, yearly household income, ethnic background, study area, preterm birth, second-hand smoke exposure and overweight/obesity before pregnancy.

Table S9 The associations between breastfeeding status under the first six months and ASD when restricting mothers of toddlers without overweight or obesity before pregnancy.

	Adjusted model	
	OR (95%CI)	<i>P</i> value
Breastfeeding status for the first six months		
Exclusive breastfeeding	1[Reference]	
Partial breastfeeding	1.64(0.92, 3.03)	0.10
Not breastfeeding	2.67(1.23, 5.68)	0.01

The model was adjusted for child's age, gender, only child, maternal age, maternal education level, yearly household income, ethnic background, study area, preterm birth, pregnancy information (complications and depression during pregnancy), second-hand smoke exposure.

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