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## Does cesarean section pose a risk of respiratory syncytial virus bronchiolitis in infants and children?

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**Objective:** To determine the risk of acquiring acute respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) bronchiolitis in infants and children delivered by the mode of cesarean section (C-section).

**Methods:** A retrospective and descriptive study was conducted at Hamad Medical Corporation. Patients with ages 0 to 36 months hospitalized with acute bronchiolitis were included in the study.

**Results:** The risk of RSV bronchiolitis was observed to be higher among C-section delivery compared to normal spontaneous vaginal delivery [odds ratio=1.10; 95%

confidence interval (0.57, 1.80); P=0.965]; however, it was not statistically significant. Gestational age  $\leq 35$  weeks was significantly associated with increased risk of RSV bronchiolitis compared to gestational age  $>35$  weeks [odds ratio=3.12; 95% confidence interval (1.53, 6.38); P=0.002].

**Conclusions:** Delivery by C-section does not appear to increase the risk of RSV bronchiolitis in infants compared with normal spontaneous vaginal delivery.

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