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*Consumer Abstract*

Gastroschisis is a serious stomach birth defect that requires major surgery immediately after birth and can result in many complications. In comparison to other birth defects, the rates of gastroschisis have been increasing globally over the last 20 years and it is thought that environmental factors such as young maternal age and poor maternal diet may be partially responsible for this trend. Dr. Jones's research group plans to study the nutritional status of mothers and their infants with gastroschisis in comparison to unaffected mother/infant pairs to better understand the effect of diet on the development of this disease. Both maternal diet and maternal and fetal tissue samples will be analyzed. The findings from this investigation have the potential to have a great impact on child health.