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Prenatal stress

By Katja Erni

Cuvillier Verlag Mrz 2012, 2012. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x149x13 mm. Neuware - Various lines of research in animals and humans indicate that prenatal stress can have long-lasting effects on biological and psychological processes of the offspring. In particular, prenatal stress is associated with long-term disturbances in HPA axis function. Moreover, prenatal stress in animals is linked with anxiety in later life. Likewise, in humans, gestational stress has a significant impact on emotional problems of the offspring. However, to date, there have been no studies investigating the effects of prenatal glucocorticoid exposure on psychological, endocrine, and autonomic responses to a standardized psychosocial stress test in children aged 10 years. Furthermore, studies investigating the effects of prenatal glucocorticoids on anxiety in children aged 10 years as assessed by self-report as well as maternal and paternal rating are lacking. In particular, knowledge is lacking about healthy children born after the 34th week of gestation without complications (e.g. oxygen administration because of respiratory distress syndrome) as well as with no other physical diseases or disabilities after birth. In addition, to date, the long-term effects of prenatal glucocorticoid exposure in children who are healthy and show no disparities in their level of development are...



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