Online data supplement

Maternal smoking during pregnancy affects adult onset of asthma in offspring: a follow up from birth to age 46 years

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Methods

The study population was based on the Northern Finland Birth Cohort in 1966 consisting of mothers and their children who were born in the northern Finland provinces of Oulu and Lapland in 1966 (1). The total number of births was 12058 in 1966, which covered 96.3% of all births in the area. In 1980, for the age 14 follow-up, 11764 alive subjects (97.6%) were traced and sent postal questionnaire, to which 11010 subjects responded. At the age of 31 in 1997, 10282 subjects were alive and traced. Among them, 8463 subjects who were still living in northern Finland or in the capital area were sent postal questionnaires and invited to clinical examinations to which 6025 subjects (71.2%) attended (2).

At the age of 46 in 2012-2013, 10300 subjects were alive and traced (85.4%). All subjects were given the opportunity to respond to two web based questionnaires (3,4) regarding background, lifestyle, health status, finances, work life and resources. If the participants did not have a computer, postal inquiries were sent to them. 7148 subjects completed data collection. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and by the Ethics Committee of the Northern Ostrobothnia Hospital

District. At all stages of the study, the subjects gave written informed consent according to the Declaration of Helsinki.

Results

Exploring potential confounding factors and gender groups on offspring's asthma onset between 31 and 46 years

When analysing the potential confounding factors, parental asthma affected the risk of offspring's asthma development between 31-46 years (Table 1, S1). Mothers' education, ponderal index (in tertile), Apgar score at the 1st minute and parity showed no significant effects on development of asthma between the ages of 31-46 years (Table 1, S1). Offspring's education of 9 years or less or regular smoking at 31 years did not associate statistically significantly with asthma onset at 31-46 years (Table 1, S1). Mother's age at the time of delivery did not associate with offspring's cumulative incidence of asthma between 31-46 years (OR=0.99 95% CI 0.97-1.00, p=0.076)

The effect of maternal smoking on the asthma onset of offspring with past respiratory problems

When analysing the associations of potential confounding factors with adult onset asthma in the offspring subgroups reporting asthma, parental asthma increased the risk of offspring's asthma development between 31-46 years, but only in the offspring subgroup reporting as never having had asthma, not diagnosed by a physician (Table 1, S2). Mothers' education, ponderal index (in tertile), Apgar score at the 1st minute showed no significant effects on development of asthma between the ages of 31-46 years in any subgroup (Table 1, S2). Parity associated with offspring's onset of asthma between 31-46 years, in the subgroup who reported as having asthma, which is not doctor-diagnosed, at 31 years.

When analysing the potential confounding factors in the subgroups reporting wheeze, parental asthma affected the risk of offspring's asthma development between 31-46 years, but only in the offspring subgroup with beginning asthma at 31 years (Table 1, S3). Confounding factors showed no significant effects on development of asthma between the ages of 31-46 years in any subgroup (Table 1, S3). Parity associated with offspring's onset of asthma between 31-46 years, in the subgroup with current wheeze at 31 years.

Discussion

Several SNPs have been identified as being susceptibility genes affecting asthma risk due to tobacco smoke exposure. These single nucleotide polymorphisms are found in loci of genes encoding glutathione Stransferase (GSTM1, GSTT1, GSTP1), Gasdermin (GSDMB, GSDML), ORMDL3, Sm protein family (LSM14A), Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase, Receptor (PTPRT), and Runt Related Transcription Factor 1 (RUNX1) (5-12). A study group found suggestive evidence for an interaction between rs8094633 on chromosome 18 near EPB41L3 and in utero tobacco smoke exposure and an interaction between rs1575472 on chromosome 6 in PACRG and childhood tobacco smoke exposure. The SNPs found have not been identified previously in general genome-wide association studies on childhood asthma. Interestingly, the SNPs interacting with in utero and childhood tobacco smoke exposure were different and were not involved in the same pathway (13). A study in a pediatric population showed that effects of in utero exposure to maternal smoking on childhood asthma and wheezing occurrence in offspring were largely restricted to children with the GSTM1-null genotype (8). GSTM1 functions in detoxification of electrophilic compounds, including carcinogens, therapeutic drugs, environmental toxins and products of oxidative stress, by conjugation with glutathione (8). In Finnish population the SNP of GSTM1 gene is rare and thus we were not able to study it. Yet the findings of our group and other groups could imply the impact of interaction between foetal genome and gestational environment on development of asthma in adulthood.

Regarding potential confounding factors, the observed effect could not be explained by covariates such as maternal education, ponderal index, Apgar score at the 1st minute, parity, parental asthma, offspring's education and smoking at 31 years. However, the independent effect only remained significant among females. This could putatively reflect gender-based differences in utero and during postnatal life in programming airways towards asthma pathogenesis (14). Birth order associated with the cumulative incidence of asthma of adult offspring with current wheeze/beginning asthma so that if the birth order of the offspring was third, the

asthma risk was lower compared higher or lower birth order. This could be related to the offspring's exposure of infections and airway development. Another study showed that among Israelii children who were the only child in the family, the prevalence of asthma was 7.3% (15). The prevalence increased to 8.95% among subjects from families with three siblings, and then progressively decreased as the number of siblings increased, and reached a trough of 0.58% in conscripts from families of 15 to 20 siblings. Asthma prevalence was similar for all birth orders (15).

A study in a Scottish population of pregnant women showed that the prevalence of self-reported current smoking (24 %) was significantly lower than a cotinine-validated estimate of current smokers (30 %) pointing out a need to offer smoking cessation programs to all pregnant women, in order to target pregnant women who do not disclose their smoking status (16). The proportion of pregnant smokers in our study was lower (9 %) than in previous studies in other populations probably in part due to differences in population and health care. As our interest was new diagnoses of adult asthma, we dropped off mothers whose offspring had had childhood asthma or suspicion of asthma before the age of 31 years. When we evaluated the whole cohort, the proportion of mothers who reported smoking during the last three months of pregnancy was increased. It must also be taken into account that in our study smoking status relied only on self-report to identify pregnant smokers, which underestimates the true number of pregnant smokers as previously reported (16). Furthermore the same study showed that the prevalence of smoking was higher (40 %) in mothers with the two highest categories indicating the biggest deprivation, according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (16). We found that neither offspring's education nor maternal education was associated with adult-onset asthma.

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			- -1			Mon			Women					
ractors	A11	Subjects	ai %		All men	Subjects	%		A11	Subjects	~11 %			
	subjects n=5200	bubjects with new DD asthma n=372	9.1	Р	n=2314	with new DD asthma n=118	5.1	Р	women n=2886	with new DD asthma n=254	8.8	Р		
Maternal smoking during the last three														
months of														
No	4727	322	6.8	0.004	2113	104	4.9	0.237	2614	218	8.3	0.009		
Yes	473	50	10.6		201	14	7.0		272	36	14.2			
Maternal smoking before the														
No	4268	293	69	0.099	1893	90	48	0.167	2375	203	85	0.253		
ves	885	75	8.5	0.077	402	26	6.5	0.107	483	49	10.1	0.235		
Number of cigarettes the mother smoked per day before pregnancy	4707	222	6.9	0.011**	2112	104	4.0	0 122**	2614	218	0.1	0.012		
1.5 cigarette	203	31	0.8	0.011***	134	104	4.9	0.155***	2014	218	0.5 15 1	0.012		
>=6	180	19	10.0		134	7	10.4		139	12	10.6			
cigarettes/pipes	100	17	10.0		67	,	10.1		113	12	10.0			
Change in smoking status during pregnancy														
No smoking	4265	292	6.8	0.113**	1892	90	4.8	0.279**	2373	202	8.5	0.035		
Gave up	297	20	6.7		145	10	6.9		152	10	6.6			
Cut down	273	28	10.3		128	6	4.7		145	22	15.2			
No change or	306	27	8.8		123	10	8.1		183	17	9.3			
increased														
Ponderal index														
Lowest tertile	1736	136	7.8	0.274	851	49	5.8	0.566	885	87	9.8	0.319		
Middle tertile	17/11	110	6.4 7.2		741	34	4.6		970	76	7.8			
Hignest tertile	1709	123	1.2		700	35	5.0		1009	88	8.7			
Apgar score at 1st minute														
<=6	149	13	8.7	0.520	83	7	8.4	0.203	66	6	9.1	0.829		
7-10	4762	345	7.2		2098	108	5.1		2664	237	8.9			
Parity	1 ~ 1 4	101	- •	0.502	507	22		0.505	005	00	0.7	0.454		
1	1641	121	7.4	0.582	736	33	4.5	0.505	905	88	9.7	0.454**		
2	12/4	101	7.9 6.8		580 364	35 17	6.0 4.7		688 494	00 41	9.6			
5 4	040 469	33	0.8		220	17	4./ 6.8		484 249	41	8.3 7 2			
5 or more	961	59	6.1		404	18	4.5		557	41	7.4			
Maternal education	,	0,7	011		101	10	110				,			
level														
Matriculation	263	17	6.5	0.490	128	6	4.7	0.836	135	11	8.1	0.689		
examination Secondary school or	1209	78	6.5		549	25	4.6		660	53	8.0			
equivalent			_		547				000					
Primary school or less	3682	274	7.4		1614	85	5.3		2068	189	9.1			
Parental asthma														
Neither	2885	187	6.5	0.01	1321	61	4.6	0.005	1564	126	8.1	0.059		
Either or both	761	77	10.1		304	27	8.9		457	50	10.9			

Table S1. Cumulative incidence of physician-diagnosed asthma between the ages 31-46 years by maternal smoking during pregnancy, perinatal factors and selected factors at age 31 years - data from the 1966 Northern Finland Birth Cohort.

Offspring's education level at 31 years												
Matriculation examination	2322	158	6.8	0.447	764	34	4.5	0.365	1558	124	8.0	0.112
Less than matriculation examination	2859	211	7.4		1540	83	5.4		1319	128	9.7	
Offspring's regular smoking at 31 years*** No Yes	4003 1111	278 86	6.9 7.7	0.356	1671 608	78 37	4.7 6.1	0.194	2332 503	200 49	8.6 9.7	0.386

** trend test

*** smoking at least one cigarette per day for at least one year

Table S2. Cumulative incidence of physician-diagnosed asthma between the ages 31-46 years in three subgroups based on offspring's self-reported never/beginning/past asthma without doctor-diagnosed asthma at 31 years. Analyzed by maternal smoking during pregnancy, perinatal factors and selected factors at age 31 years - data from the 1966 Northern Finland Birth Cohort.

Factors		Nover acthma Decinning asthma					Pact asthma					
	n=4994	Subjects with new DD- asthma n=325	6.5	Р	n=128	Subjects with new DD- asthma n=31	% 24.2	Р	n=63	Subjects with new DD- asthma n=15	23.8	Р
Maternal smoking during the last three months of												
pregnancy No	4548	288	6.3	0.108	112	25	22.3	0.215	52	8	15.4	0.002
Yes	446	37	8.3		16	6	37.5		11	7	63.6	
Maternal smoking before the pregnancy												
No yes	4112 837	261 62	6.3 7.4	0.146	101 26	24 6	23.8 23.1	1.00	42 20	7 7	16.7 35.0	0.120
Number of cigarettes the mother smoked per day before pregnancy	1518	288	63	0.252**	112	25	22.3	0.200**	52	8	15.4	0.001**
1-5 cigarette	278	230	8.6	0.235	8	4	50.0	0.270	7	3	42.9	0.001
>=6 cigarettes/pipes	168	13	7.7		8	2	25.0		4	4	100.0	
Change in smoking status during pregnancy No smoking	4110	261	6.4	0.474**	100	23	23.0	0 500**	42	7	167	0.007**
Gave up	279	18	6.5	0.474	11	23	18.2	0.500	6	0	0.0	0.007
Cut down	260	23	8.8		6	3	50.0		6	2	33.3	
No change or increased	288	19	6.6		11	3	27.3		7	5	71.4	
Ponderal index												
Lowest tertile	1667	113	6.8	0.383	45	16	35.6	0.112	20	7	35.0	0.179
Highest tertile	1643 1644	96 114	5.8 6.9		39 42	8 7	20.5 16.7		21 20	5 2	23.8 10.0	
Apgar score at 1st												
<=6	140	11	7.9	0.493	6	2	33.3	0.631	3	0	0.0	0.561
7-10	4578	302	6.6		114	27	23.7		55	15	27.3	
Parity 1	1575	99	6.3	0.614	37	15	40.5	0.031	25	7	28.0	0.166
2	1233	92	7.5	0.011	29	6	20.7	0.051	12	3	25.0	0.100
3	811	51	6.3		26	2	7.7		8	4	50.0	
4 5 or more	457 911	30 53	6.6 5.8		9 27	3 5	33.3 18.5		3 15	0 1	0.0 6.7	
Maternal education												
Matriculation	252	17	6.7	0.694	5	0	0.0	0.390	5	0	0.0	0.621
Secondary school or equivalent	1171	70	6.0		24	5	20.8		13	3	23.1	
Primary school or less	3526	235	6.7		98	26	26.5		45	12	26.7	
Parental asthma Neither	2787	165	5.9	0.006	70	17	24.3	1.00	21	4	19.0	0.285
Either or both	709	63	8.9		32	7	21.9		18	7	38.9	

Offspring's education level at 31 years Matriculation examination Less than matriculation examination	2249 2726	144 178	6.4 6.5	0.908	44 84	9 22	20.5 26.2	0.522	22 41	4 11	18.2 26.8	0.544
Offspring's regular smoking at 31 years*** No Yes	3851 1060	245 73	6.4 6.9	0.527	95 33	21 10	22.1 30.3	0.354	44 17	11 3	25.0 17.6	0.738

** trend test *** smoking at least one cigarette per day for at least one year DD= doctor-diagnosed

Table S3. Cumulative incidence of physician-diagnosed asthma between the ages 31-46 years in three subgroups based on offpring's self-reported never/current/past wheeze at 31 years. Analyzed by maternal smoking during pregnancy, perinatal factors and selected factors at age 31 years - data from the 1966 Northern Finland Birth Cohort.

Factors		Never w	0070			Current	haaza			Dact wh		
Factors	n=3702	Subjects with new DD asthma n=188	% 5.1	Р	n=550	Subjects with new DD asthma n=84	% 15.3	Р	n=643	Subjects with new DD asthma n=78	% 12.1	Р
Maternal smoking during the last three months of												
pregnancy No	3386	171	5.1	0.788	483	70	14.5	0.203	585	62	10.6	0.000
Yes	316	17	5.4		67	14	20.9		58	16	27.6	
Maternal smoking before the pregnancy	2054	150	5.0	0.772	107	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		0.074	520	~~	10.4	0.005
No yes	3056 613	158 29	5.2 4.7	0.763	437	63 20	14.4 18.0	0.374	528 107	55 22	10.4 20.6	0.005
Number of cigarettes the mother smoked per day before pregnancy												
No 1-5 cigarette	3386 197	171 11	5.1 5.6	0.978**	483 42	70 9	14.5 21.4	0.377**	585 36	62 10	10.6 27.8	0.002**
>=6 cigarettes/pipes	119	6	5.0		25	5	20.0		22	6	27.3	
Change in smoking status during pregnancy		150		6 0 00 htt	125			0.500.bt			10.0	0.00011
No smoking Gave up	3055 216	158 9	5.2 4.2	0.922**	437	63	14.4 19.4	0.528**	527 32	54 4	10.2 12.5	0.009**
Cut down No change or increased	182 210	9 10	4.9 4.8		40 39	6	22.5 15.4		33 41	8 10	24.2 24.4	
Ponderal index Lowest tertile	1220	66	5.4	0.823	194	33	17.0	0.587	223	28	12.6	0.706
Middle tertile Highest tertile	1226 1229	60 61	4.9 5.0		168 177	22 27	13.1 15.3		206 209	22 28	10.78 13.4	
Apgar score at 1st minute												
<=6 7-10	102 3392	5 1762	4.9 5.2	1.00	20 508	5 76	25.0 15.0	0.212	20 589	3 72	15.00 12.2	0.726
Parity	1173	57	4.0	0.455	175	35	20.0	0.027	200	22	10.5	0 795
2	903	56	6.2	0.455	123	16	13.0	0.027	161	22	14.3	0.795
3	596 227	31	5.2		98	8	8.2		106	14	13.2	
4 5 or more	337 6901	14 30	4.2 4.3		44 108	11 14	23.0 13.0		62 105	8 11	12.9 10.5	
Maternal education level			_									
Matriculation examination	184	11	6.0	0.646	27	2	7.4	0.391	39	4	10.3	0.596
Secondary school or equivalent	893	41	4.6		109	20	18.3		142	14	9.9	
Primary school or less	2593	134	5.2		410	62	15.3		457	60	13.1	
Parental asthma Neither	2119	105	5.0	0.309	292	36	12.3	0.003	353	39	11.0	0.307
Either or both	491	30	6.1		117	29	24.8		107	16	15.0	

Offspring's education level at 31 years												
Matriculation	1725	91	5.3	0.908	199	31	15.6	0.902	282	29	10.3	0.271
Less than matriculation examination	1965	96	4.9		350	53	15.1		351	47	13.2	
Offspring's regular smoking at 31 years*** No Yes	3006 632	151 35	5.0 5.5	0.619	317 227	56 27	17.7 11.9	0.070	496 137	57 16	11.5 11.7	1.00

** trend test *** smoking at least one cigarette per day for at least one year DD= doctor-diagnosed

Table S4. List of the SNPs identified from a literature search associating with tobacco smoke
exposure and asthma

SNP_id	PMID (REF)	chromosome: position	ext_gene_name	transcript_count	allele	MAF for ALL	MAF for AFR	MAF for AMR	MAF for EAS	MAF for FIN	MAF for NFE	MAF for OTH	MAF for SAS
rs1042713	18558635 (12)	5:148206156	ADRB2	1	G/A	2.968	3.372	3.066	2.940	3.988	3.022	2.617	2.797
rs11702779	21803869 (6)	21:36160098	RUNX1	19	G/A	2.601	2.467	3.706	2.851	3.154	2.788	2.503	2.684
rs1759092	28253294 (5)	19:34663409	LSM14A	8	G/A	4.094	4.692	3.481	3.794	1.101	3.788	4.184	4.053
rs2305480	22626592 (7)	17:38060848	GSDMB	15	G/A	2.440	0.985	2.243	2.920	1.810	3.562	3.047	3.160
rs366631	12186820 (8)	1:110252472	GSTM1	8	A/G	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
rs40401	24684517 (11)	5:131396222	IL3	1	C/T	2.413	3.643	1.765	2.024	3.678	2.213	1.677	2.015
rs4795400	22626592 (7)	17:38060848	GSDMB	15	C/T	2.477	1.106	2.235	2.920	1.803	3.562	3.056	3.182
rs7262414	28253294 (5)	20:40701392	PTPRT	8	C/A	1.082	0.715	0.638	0.966	0.0068	1.388	1.356	1.188
rs8069176	22626592 (7)	17:38060848	GSDMB	15	G/A	2.865	2.499	2.320	2.913	1.816	3.566	3.040	3.132
rs1695 (previous id	20526719 (10)												
rs947894)	(10)	11:67352689	GSTP1	1	A/G	0.354	0.450	0.375	0.172	0.270	0.335	0.317	NA
rs8076131	22626592 (7)	17:38060848	GSDMB	15	G/A	4.409	5.713	4.657	4.047	5.097	3.378	3.853	3.720

SNP=single nucleotide polymorphism, CHR: POS= chromosome position, ext=external, AFR=African, AMR=Admixed American, EAS=East Asian, FIN=Finnish, MAF = minor allele frequency, NFE=Non-Finnish European, OTH=Other, SAS=South Asian, NA=not applicable.