

Perinatal androgen exposure and adipose tissue programming: Is there an impact on body weight fate?

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© 2015 Informa UK, Ltd. Obesity is a major concern in public health because it is one of the main risk factors for the development of non-transmissible chronic diseases. The fact that there is a clear sex dimorphism in normal body fat distribution points out the role of sex steroids as key factors in the regulation and function of the adipose cell. Androgens affect adipogenesis and fat metabolism in the adipose tissue of males and females. Hormonal disorders during pregnancy may affect the fetal tissues, with long-term implications leading to the development of pathologies during adult life. Obesity and metabolic disease are among these. In this regard, animal models have demonstrated an abnormal fat distribution and modifications in the size and function of adipose cells in the female and male offspring of mothers exposed to androgen excess during pregnancy.