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Bio 100

Professor Lloyd

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Growth Defects in Cystic Fibrosis May Start Before Birth

 By Jennifer Brown



 This article discusses a new cystic fibrosis study done using a pig model of cystic fibrosis. The study showed that low levels of a growth-promoting hormone at or before birth may possibly contribute to the growth defects found in patients with cystic fibrosis. The study could help doctors predict the severity of the disease as well as lead to new therapies for growth defects.

 The scientists conducted the study by studying newborn pigs with a cystic fibrosis causing gene mutations, which had a lot of the same complications as humans with cystic fibrosis. They were looking to see the relationship between IGF1 levels, which is believed to be the cause of birth defects, and growth patterns. They found that IGF1 is linked to birth defects.

 The article relates directly to my topic since my topic is on cystic fibrosis. This article was one of the many I found on this subject, but many of them were not as easy to understand.

 The scientists used different scientific pathways in their research. They used exploration and discovery by getting the infant pigs with the cystic fibrosis gene mutation and examining the effects on the pig. They tested their ideas by comparing the infant pigs with the mutation to infant humans with the mutation. The benefits and outcomes of the study are that someday that may be able to minimize the birth defects caused by cystic fibrosis.

 This topic relates directly to me because my family has the cystic fibrosis gene. I had a cousin pass away from it years ago when they didn’t know much about the disease and I have a cousin who is living with it now. This research could benefit someone in my family or myself if we were to have a baby born with cystic fibrosis.

 http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/207390.php