Childhood maltreatment predicts adult inflammation in a life-course study

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Stress in early life has been associated with insufficient glucocorticoid signaling in adulthood, possibly affecting inflammation processes. Childhood maltreatment has been linked to increased risk of adult disease with potential inflammatory origin. However, the impact of early life stress on adult inflammation is not known in humans. We tested the life-course association between childhood maltreatment and adult inflammation in a birth cohort followed to age 32 years as part of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study. Regression models were used to estimate the effect of maltreatment on inflammation, adjusting for has not been investigated in humans to date. The persistent activation of inflammatory pathways could be one of the mechanisms through which early life adverse experiences alter long-term health outcomes.

Our first aim was to test the hypothesis that maltreated children are characterized by an increased risk of clinically relevant high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) levels in adulthood. We chose hsCRP because it is thought to be one of the most reliable indicators of inflammation and recently has been endorsed as an adjunct to traditional risk factor screening

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Inflammatory Th17 cells promote depression-like behavior in mice

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Abstract