Today’s piece was prepared by Kimi Liekweg, MS-4 from NPR Delayed Umbilical Cord Clamping May Benefit Children Years Later <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/05/26/409697568/delayed-umbilical-cord-clamping-may-benefit-children-years-later>

This article discusses a JAMA Pediatrics study which reports a modest correlation between delayed cord clamping and later better social and fine motor skills at 4 years of age. Study participants included 263 healthy full-term newborns in Sweden. Participants were randomized to either *delayed* cord clamping (cc) 3 minutes or more after birth, or *early* with cc less than 10 seconds after birth. Researchers reported modestly higher scores in boys, but not in girls, in social skills and fine motor skills, no difference in IQ.

The NPR article provides a balanced interpretation of the study results with expert commentary supporting the study but noting limitations including the population’s homogenous nature and exclusion of high-risk newborns. However, the article fails to mention the high attrition rate (31.2%), a tremendous risk for biased results based on parents’ willingness to return for follow-up. Additionally, article readers may be misled regarding the strength of the study’s results: the two groups only differed on 1 of 3 fine-motor skills subsets and on a parent-reported instrument for social and fine-motor skills. No differences were detected in cognitive, language or gross motor domains.

**RESOURCES ON CORD CLAMPING & NEURODEVELOPMENT:**

World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/elena/titles/full_recommendations/cord_clamping/en/> *Optimal timing of cord clamping for the prevention of iron-deficiency anemia in infants*

American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology <http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Timing-of-Umbilical-Cord-Clamping-After-Birth> *Committee opinion on optimal timing of cord clamping*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!