

Babies born vaginally

During birth, the baby will come into contact with bacteria from the mother's gut. The study discovered it was the mother's gut bacteria that made up much of the microbiome in the vaginally delivered babies. Babies born via caesarean had many fewer of these bacteria. This study therefore found no evidence to support controversial 'vaginal swabbing' practices, which could transfer dangerous bacteria to the baby.

Yan Shao . (2019) Stunted gut microbiota and increased pathogen colonisation associated with caesarean birth. DOI: 10.1038/s41586-019-1560-1

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