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## Neonatal Birth Defects: Latest Advances

Guest Editor:

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Dear Colleagues,

Birth defects (BDs) are structural or functional abnormalities present at or before birth. They can be caused by genetic abnormalities and/or environmental exposure. BDs are considered to be main causes of mortality and disability in infants and children.

Birth defects occur in approximately 2 to 4 percent of livebirths and are more common in stillborn spontaneous miscarriages. The overall prevalence of BDs has remained constant.

Many risk factors have been associated with BDs, including maternal age, environmental pollution, medications, maternal chronic diseases, infectious agents (e.g., TORCH toxoplasmosis, Syphilis, varicella zoster, parovirus B19, Rubella, Cytomegalovirus, and herpes infections) and physical agents (e.g., radiation). If we can prevent or reduce these risk factors, we may decrease the number of patients with BDs.



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# Special Issue