

## LÍNGUA INGLESA

## Questões de 64 a 70

Read the text carefully.

### Researchers study how stress affects fetus

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*From Medical Correspondent Dan Rutz*

NEW YORK (CNN) – There are signs that tension may take its toll early in life, possibly while a fetus is still in the womb, researchers say.

In a groundbreaking study at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, reactions to everyday stress are measured on both the mother's and unborn baby's systems.

"If our research – and there are a few other labs doing fetal research – start to show data showing these emotions are registered in the fetus, they may have something to say about development," said researcher Catherine Monk. "I think we'll really be in a place to educate our colleagues that this is important and hopefully to start up some intervention programs."

To measure stress, pregnant women complete a series of computer exercises, purposely designed to be frustrating. As a woman struggles with the problems, electronic sensors record her heart rate, blood pressure and breathing, as well as fetal heart rate and movement.

"It will be interesting to see if my emotional state or my stress level will affect her level, the baby's body," said study participant Margo Lowenstein.

The key question is whether stress before birth can permanently affect a child's development.

"It's likely that it's having some effect on development just because this is a time when the brain is developing at such a rapid rate," Monk said. "The whole system is getting set up."

Other studies already relate severe stress in pregnancy with low birthrate and premature delivery.

"I would believe it," Lowenstein says. "I know for myself if I'm stressed out my neck will get sore or something."

Just how much the world beyond the womb affects the developing child within is still unclear. But the evidence is growing that our first encounter with stress begins long before the first breath.



Computer exercises are used to raise Margo Lowenstein's stress levels

**Choose the alternative which best completes each of the statements.**

**64.** The statement which best summarizes the text is:

- (A) There are a lot of studies proving that mother stress affects fetus and child development.
- (B) There is a significant possibility that mother stress affects fetus and child development.
- (C) Most of the stressed mothers are expected not to have premature deliveries in the USA.
- (D) There is no relation between pregnant mother stress and fetus or child development.
- (E) The effects of mother stress on fetus and child development have been disastrous in the USA.

**65.** The research mentioned in the text makes pregnant women stress levels rise by:

- (A) stressing their fetuses by means of computer exercises.
- (B) injecting some stimulating substances into their blood streams.
- (C) telling them to perform some exhausting physical exercises.
- (D) applying electric shock in the women's stressed bodies.
- (E) asking them to complete some deliberately frustrating computer exercises.

**66.** Margo Lowenstein is interested in the research because:

- (A) she wants to know how stress may affect her future baby.
- (B) she is the scientist who is responsible for the research.
- (C) she believes her children are extremely stressed.
- (D) she is stressed and wants to understand how it started.
- (E) she is very much interested in studying child development.

**67.** The hypothesis of the research is that pregnant mother stress may affect the future child development because:

- (A) fetus's brain has not started to develop yet.
- (B) fetus's brain has just finished its development.
- (C) fetus's brain is likely to develop very fast.
- (D) fetus's brain will not receive any influence before the birth.
- (E) fetus's brain is supposed to reflect mother's brain.

68. According to the text, in order to evaluate mother's and fetus's stress levels, which parameter is **not** measured?
- (A) Mother's blood pressure
  - (B) Fetus's heart rate
  - (C) Fetus's blood pressure
  - (D) Mother's heart rate
  - (E) Mother's breathing
69. According to the text, the research **main advantage** seems to be that it will:
- (A) help women to give birth without suffering from stress.
  - (B) provide means for further human development study.
  - (C) make it possible to avoid early children's stress.
  - (D) enable doctors to avoid premature delivery.
  - (E) make women more aware of pregnancy risks.
70. In the first and in the last paragraphs, the author shows that researchers' statements are tentative, that is, they are not said as a final conclusion. Instances of this thought are:
- (A) possibly / unclear
  - (B) still / evidence
  - (C) tension / evidence
  - (D) toll / encounter
  - (E) womb / stress

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