## JAMA Pediatrics | Original Investigation

# Association Between Early-Life Antibiotic Use and the Risk of Islet or Celiac Disease Autoimmunity

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**IMPORTANCE** Evidence is lacking regarding the consequences of antibiotic use in early life and the risk of certain autoimmune diseases.

**OBJECTIVE** To test the association between early-life antibiotic use and islet or celiac disease (CD) autoimmunity in genetically at-risk children prospectively followed up for type 1 diabetes (T1D) or CD.

**DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS** HLA-genotyped newborns from Finland, Germany, Sweden, and the United States were enrolled in the prospective birth cohort of The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) study between November 20, 2004, and July 8, 2010. The dates of analysis were November 20, 2004, to August 31, 2014. Individuals from the general population and those having a first-degree relative with T1D were enrolled if they had 1 of 9 HLA genotypes associated with a risk for T1D.

**EXPOSURES** Parental reports of the most common antibiotics (cephalosporins, penicillins, and macrolides) used between age 3 months and age 4 years were recorded prospectively.

MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES Islet autoimmunity and CD autoimmunity were defined as being positive for islet or tissue transglutaminase autoantibodies at 2 consecutive clinic visits at least 3 months apart. Hazard ratios and 95% CIs calculated from Cox proportional hazards regression models were used to assess the relationship between antibiotic use in early life before seroconversion and the development of autoimmunity.

**RESULTS** Participants were 8495 children (49.0% female) and 6558 children (48.7% female) enrolled in the TEDDY study who were tested for islet and tissue transglutaminase autoantibodies, respectively. Exposure to and frequency of use of any antibiotic assessed in this study in early life or before seroconversion did not influence the risk of developing islet autoimmunity or CD autoimmunity. Cumulative use of any antibiotic during the first 4 years of life was not associated with the appearance of any autoantibody (hazard ratio [HR], 0.98; 95% CI, 0.95-1.01), multiple islet autoantibodies (HR, 0.99; 95% CI, 0.95-1.03), or the transglutaminase autoantibody (HR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.98-1.02).

**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE** The use of the most prescribed antibiotics during the first 4 years of life, regardless of geographic region, was not associated with the development of autoimmunity for T1D or CD. These results suggest that a risk of islet or tissue transglutaminase autoimmunity need not influence the recommendations for clinical use of antibiotics in young children at risk for T1D or CD.

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ince the introduction of penicillin in 1941, antibiotics have had a crucial role in combating infections, which has led to a sharp increase in the average life span in the industrialized world.<sup>1</sup> However, the increasing use of antibiotics worldwide has been proposed as a cause for the growing incidence of autoimmune diseases in industrialized countries, particularly type 1 diabetes (T1D) and celiac disease (CD). The presence or absence of an association between antibiotic use and autoimmune diseases could have profound influences on future antibiotic use worldwide. Antibiotics administered to rodents predisposed to T1D have shown both protective and accelerating effects on disease development, mainly during the prenatal and neonatal periods.<sup>2-9</sup> Yet, the antibiotics used in such rodent studies are not often prescribed for infections in children. In humans, maternal use before or during pregnancy did not increase the risk of childhood T1D, except in a few cases where proportional use by the cohort was so low that it could not explain the large increase in T1D incidence over the last 50 years.<sup>10</sup> Increased CD risk was associated with antibiotic use in children<sup>11</sup> and adults.<sup>12</sup>

Given the conflicting evidence on antibiotic use and autoimmunity risk, the aim herein was to test whether the use of oral  $\beta$ -lactam or macrolide antibiotics was associated with autoimmunity for T1D or CD during the first 4 years of life. Antibiotic use was investigated cumulatively from birth to assess any potential trigger associations before autoimmunity in The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) cohort.

## Methods

## Study Design

The TEDDY is a large prospective cohort study that follows up children at high genetic risk for T1D or CD at 6 clinical centers in 4 countries (Finland, Germany, Sweden, and the United States).<sup>13</sup> After screening 424 788 children at birth for HLA genes associated with T1D and CD between November 20, 2004, and July 8, 2010, the parents of 8676 genetically atrisk children gave written informed consent for enrollment in a 15-year follow-up study at age 3 months.14 The dates of analysis were November 20, 2004, to August 31, 2014. Individuals from the general population and those having a first-degree relative with T1D were enrolled if they had 1 of 9 HLA genotypes associated with a risk for T1D. Parental reports of the most common antibiotics (cephalosporins, penicillins, and macrolides) used between age 3 months and age 4 years were recorded prospectively. Factors associated with enrollment in the TEDDY study are described elsewhere<sup>15,16</sup> and were adjusted for in the multivariable models. The TEDDY study was approved by the following ethical institutional review boards: the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board, the Hospital District of Southwest Finland Committee on Ethics, the University of Florida Health Center Institutional Review Board, the Augusta University Institutional Review Board (Georgia), the Ethik-Kommission der Bayerischen Landesarztekammer (Germany), the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board, the Lund University Committee for Continuing Ethical ReQuestion Is the use of  $\beta$ -lactam or macrolide antibiotics in early life associated with autoimmunity for type 1 diabetes or celiac disease?

Findings Included in this cohort study were 8495 children and 6558 children enrolled in The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) study who were tested for islet and tissue transglutaminase autoantibodies, respectively. Among these children at genetic risk for type 1 diabetes or celiac disease, the use of  $\beta$ -lactam or macrolide antibiotics in early life and before seroconversion was not associated with a risk of autoimmunity for either disease.

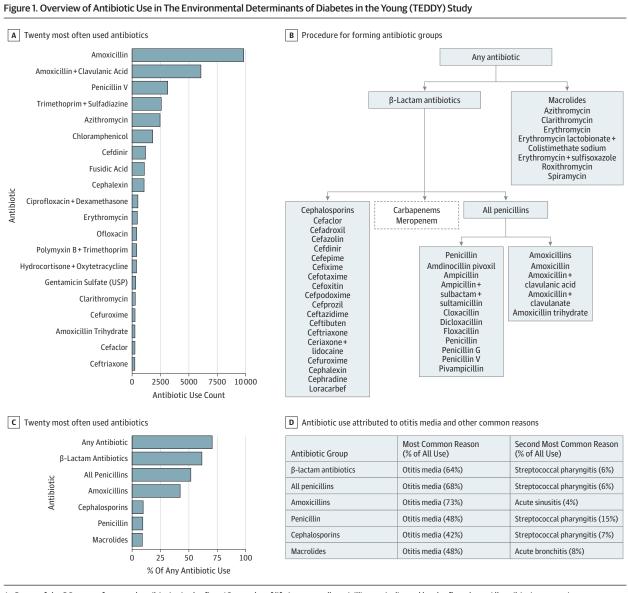
**Meaning** These results suggest that the use of the most common antibiotics in early life does not increase the risk of autoimmunity in children at increased genetic risk.

view (Sweden), the Western Institutional Review Board (Washington), and the University of South Florida Institutional Review Board. The TEDDY study is also monitored by a National Institutes of Health external advisory board.

As of August 3, 2014, a total of 8495 children had reached age 4 years, had a confirmed HLA genotype at age 9 months, and were screened for T1D and CD autoantibodies during follow-up period (eFigure 1 in the Supplement). Blood samples used for antibody testing were collected at clinic visits conducted 4 times a year between age 3 months and age 4 years and biannually thereafter for those who had not developed islet autoimmunity (IA) by age 4 years.<sup>17</sup>

Islet autoantibodies, including insulin autoantibody (IAA), glutamic acid decarboxylase autoantibody (GADA), and tyrosine phosphatase IA-2 autoantibody (IA2A), were tested as previously described.<sup>18</sup> Islet autoimmunity was defined as being positive for any one autoantibody at 2 consecutive clinic visits at least 3 months apart confirmed by 2 laboratories. The first primary outcome of this study was the risk of IA, but firstappearing IAA or GADA outcomes were also analyzed. Because young children who develop a second islet autoantibody are at high risk of developing T1D, the development of multiple persistent antibodies within 48 months was assessed (n = 276). Individuals who developed a single autoantibody (IAA, GADA, or IA2A) and did not progress to multiple autoantibodies before age 48 months (n = 36) were censored at 48 months as nonmultiple. The date of seroconversion was defined as the date of the first of 2 consecutive samples that tested positive for a specific islet autoantibody. For multiple islet autoantibodies, the date of seroconversion was defined as the date of the appearance of the second persistent autoantibody.

Screening for tissue transglutaminase autoantibodies (tTGAs) followed a modified schedule described previously,<sup>19</sup> with children tested for tTGAs between age 12 months and age 48 months. After exclusion of children not tested for tTGAs between age 12 months and age 48 months (n = 1934), those who developed CD before tTGA testing (n = 1), and those who developed tTGAs before age 12 months (n = 2), the final cohort size for CD autoimmunity (CDA) outcome was 6558 children (eFigure 1 in the Supplement). The second primary outcome



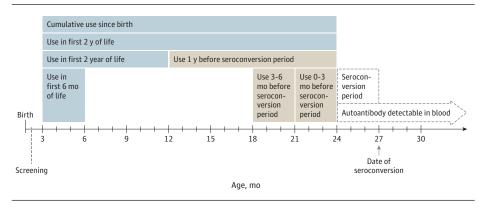
A, Count of the 20 most often used antibiotics in the first 48 months of life in the TEDDY study. B, Procedure for forming antibiotic groups. Medications listed under the headings were extracted from the TEDDY medication database. These medications were grouped into major antibiotic categories (cephalosporins, amoxicillins, penicillin, macrolides, and carbapenems). These categories were further collapsed into any antibiotic,  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, and

The first 46 months of me for the chosen antibiotic tic categories percentage of antibiotic use attributed to otitis me common reasons for use. USP indicates United State  $c, \beta$ -lactam antibiotics, and

of this study was the risk of CDA, defined as being positive for tTGAs at 2 consecutive clinic visits at least 3 months apart. The date of seroconversion was defined as the date of the first of 2 consecutive samples that tested positive for tTGAs.

The primary caregivers of children in the TEDDY study kept an ongoing record of the child's exposures and medical history, starting at the first clinic visit at age 3 months.<sup>17</sup> Exposures from the first 3 months of life were retrospectively collected at the first clinic visit. The parents recorded the use of any over-the-counter or prescription medication, including the brand name, reason for use, number of days of use, and age of the child at the time of use.<sup>17</sup> A medical coding system was developed to combine TEDDY medication codes with standardall penicillins, as indicated by the flowchart. All antibiotic categories except carbapenems were considered for analysis. C, Percentage of any antibiotic use in the first 48 months of life for the chosen antibiotic groups. D, Table of the percentage of antibiotic use attributed to otitis media and the second most common reasons for use. USP indicates United States Pharmacopeia.

ized clinical drug nomenclature via RxNorm<sup>20</sup> and pharmacological actions of substances. Pharmacists and TEDDY staff ratified this system to ensure proper classification of medications. Antibiotics were classified as any medication with bactericidal or bacteriostatic action. To reduce the number of comparisons during the data analysis stages, antibiotics were grouped into the following major categories: amoxicillins, penicillins, carbapenems, macrolides, and cephalosporins (eTable 1 in the Supplement). These antibiotic categories were further collapsed into  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, all penicillins, and "any antibiotic," which was defined as the use of any of the antibiotics listed above (**Figure 1B**). Carbapenems and other antibiotics were not analyzed as a separate category due to the low incidence of Figure 2. Example of Sampling and Lag Periods in Relation to Islet Autoimmunity or Celiac Disease Autoimmunity Seroconversion



In this example, the 27-month and 30-month serum samples are confirmed positive for islet or tissue transglutaminase autoantibodies. Therefore, the date of seroconversion is set at 27 months. The seroconversion period is the 3-month interval between the last negative (24-month sample) and the first positive (27-month sample) autoantibody sample.

#### Table 1. Population Characteristics of the Islet Autoimmunity (IA) and Celiac Disease Autoimmunity (CDA) Cohorts

	IA, %						
Variable	No Islet First-Appearing Islet Autoantibody			Multiple Islet Autoantibodies	CDA, %		
	Autoantibodies (n = 8032)	Any (n = 463)	GADA (n = 157)	IAA (n = 224)	Second Islet Autoantibody (n = 276)	No CDA (n = 5775)	CDA (n = 783)
Country							
Finland	20.9	25.7	16.6	31.7	28.6	23.3	20.3
Germany	6.7	8.2	4.5	8.0	9.8	6.2	5.2
Sweden	29.2	33.3	35.7	32.6	30.8	29.8	40.9
United States	43.2	328	42.3	27.7	30.8	40.7	33.6
Female sex	49.5	44.9	49.7	40.2	44.6	47.4	57.9
First-degree relative with T1D or CD	10.2	22.0	20.4	22.8	26.5	2.5	8.0
HLA-DR genotype							
DR4/4, X	40.0	36.7	26.8	43.7	37.0	42.8	16.0
DR3/4	38.3	50.3	46.5	50.0	56.5	39.8	36.5
DR3/3, X	21.7	13.0	26.7	6.3	6.5	17.4	47.5
Cesarean delivery	26.2	21.8	24.2	20.5	21.7	26.6	21.5
Probiotic use before age 90 d	14.1	13.2	10.2	13.8	14.9	15.1	16.2
Breastfeeding status at age 90 d							
Still exclusive breastfeeding	27.1	26.4	26.8	27.6	25.3	27.3	31.9
Breastfeeding but not exclusively	48.1	52.7	49.5	52.0	53.1	50.7	51.9
Stopped breastfeeding	24.8	21.0	23.7	20.4	21.6	21.9	16.2
Maternal antibiotic use during pregnancy	22.8	21.2	23.6	20.5	19.9	22.7	22.7
Season of birth							
Spring (March to May)	23.4	24.0	28.0	23.2	26.5	23.2	25.7
Summer (June to August)	25.3	23.8	19.8	26.8	25.7	25.4	27.1
Fall (September to November)	25.3	28.5	28.7	29.5	26.1	25.4	23.2
Winter (December to February)	26.1	23.8	23.6	20.5	21.7	26.0	24.0

Abbreviations: CD, celiac disease; GADA, glutamic acid decarboxylase autoantibody; IAA, insulin autoantibody; T1D, type 1 diabetes.

use. While the TEDDY study did not collect data on the route of administration, any known local or topical antibiotics belonging to the major antibiotic categories, as determined by TEDDY pediatric physicians, were removed. Antibiotic use was defined as a course of antibiotics prescribed by a physician.

Maternal medication use during pregnancy was collected via a questionnaire mailed to the mothers of enrolled children and completed 3 to 4 months post partum. Probiotic exposure was defined as the timing of the first introduction of probiotics from a dietary supplement or infant formula. Duration of breastfeeding was collected from a questionnaire at study entry and was reviewed with TEDDY staff at all clinic visits.

## **Statistical Analysis**

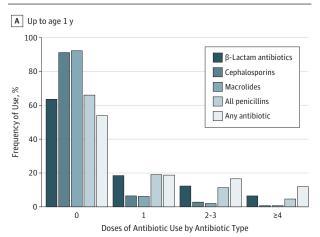
The objective was to examine whether early, cumulative, or recent antibiotic use was associated with instantaneous risk of IA or CDA. Each association was assessed by a hazard ratio (HR) and 95% CI calculated from Cox proportional hazards regression models that regressed antibiotic use as a time-varying covariate on the hazard of outcome (IA or CDA). In each model, children deemed negative for the outcome or missing 4 consecutive antibody samples were censored either at the age of their last autoantibody test or at age 48 months, whichever occurred first. Each risk set (the case and children still at risk) was formed on the day of the first positive sample. The betweenvisit period for that specific day was considered the seroconversion period for each child in the risk set. For the case, the actual day of seroconversion occurred between the last 3-month sample and the first positive sample (Figure 2). To ensure that antibiotic use was examined before autoantibodies developed, major antibiotics (categories shown in Figure 1B) were examined only before the seroconversion period. The number of antibiotics on the hazard of outcome was examined separately by the following 7 time frames: (1) cumulative count, (2) count to age 6 months, (3) count to age 12 months, and (4) count to age 48 months using sum and step functions, as well as the (5) count during 0 to 3 months before seroconversion, (6) count during 3 to 6 months before seroconversion, and (7) count during 0 to 12 months before seroconversion using sum and lag functions (Figure 2). In addition, antibiotic use within all exposure windows was also examined on first-appearing IAA or GADA outcomes to check for any age-specific association with IA.<sup>18</sup> All models were adjusted for known risk factors, including country, sex, first-degree relative with T1D or CD, HLA-DR genotype, caesarian delivery, probiotic use before age 90 days, breastfeeding status at age 90 days, maternal antibiotic use during pregnancy, and season of birth.

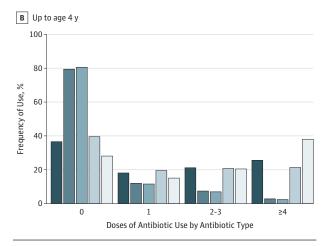
To simplify presentation of the results, adjustment for multiple comparisons was performed first by examining each exposure window separately, followed by a Bonferroni correction (2-sided P < .007 was considered significant) in relation to the outcome. To further control for type I errors, a false discovery rate for all time-dependent associations with each outcome was also applied, with any change in significance of the association with antibiotic use reported for each outcome (Cochran Q<.05). Cumulative antibiotic use across time and by country was evaluated by generalized estimating equations with log link. All statistical analyses were performed using a software program (SAS, version 9.4; SAS Institute Inc).

## Results

The baseline characteristics of the study participants are summarized in **Table 1**. There were 38 152 recorded instances of antibiotic use by TEDDY participants in the first 48 months of life, with 95 unique antibiotic compounds listed. Amoxicillins, in any combination, were the single most commonly used antibiotic compound, comprising 42.3% of all reported use (Figure 1A). All other antibiotic compounds accounted for less than 9% of the total recorded uses. Otitis media was the most common reason for antibiotic use, accounting for 62.0% of all instances (Figure 1D). The  $\beta$ -lactam and macrolides antibiotics that were chosen for further analysis accounted for most (70.5%) of all recorded use in the first 48 months of life (Figure 1C). The rest of the antibiotics were either used too in-

## Figure 3. Frequency of Use by Antibiotic Type





Frequency of use (in doses) is shown categorically for each specific antibiotic up to age 1 year (A) and up to age 4 years (B).

frequently to have sufficient power for the analysis (17.7%) or were applied topically (11.8%).

Antibiotic use differed by country (eFigure 2 in the Supplement). In Sweden, the preferred penicillin is penicillin V, while amoxicillin is preferred in the United States and Finland (eFigure 2C in the Supplement). Cephalosporins and macrolides are used sparingly compared with their use in the United States, Germany, and Finland (eFigure 2E and F in the Supplement). Most children (72.2%) had received 0 to 2 doses of any antibiotic type by age 1 year; by age 4 years, 34.7% of children had received 2 to 3 doses of any antibiotic, and 37.6% had received 4 or more doses (Figure 3).

#### Antibiotic Use and the Appearance of Islet Autoantibodies

A total of 463 of 8495 individuals (5.5%) developed any islet autoantibodies before age 49.5 months (Table 1 and eFigure 1 in the Supplement). The median age at seroconversion to any islet autoantibodies was 21.4 months (range, 12.2-33.0 months), with IAA-first seroconversion occurring earlier (median, 16.2 months) than GADA-first seroconversion (median, 27.0 months). The median age at seroconversion to multiple islet autoantibodies was 24.3 months (range, 16.5-33.4 months). Cumula-

Table 2. Antibiotic Use Over Time Relative to the Risk of Islet Autoimmunity (IA), Multiple Islet Autoantibodie	s,
and Celiac Disease Autoimmunity (CDA) Examined in Separate Cox Proportional Hazards Regression Models	

	Hazard Ratio (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>				
Variable	IA	Multiple Islet Autoantibodies	CDA		
Cumulative Use Since Birth					
Any antibiotic	0.98 (0.95-1.01)	0.99 (0.95-1.03)	1.00 (0.98-1.02)		
β-Lactam antibiotics	0.98 (0.95-1.02)	1.00 (0.96-1.04)	1.00 (0.97-1.02)		
Cephalosporins	0.89 (0.77-1.02)	0.90 (0.76-1.06)	1.01 (0.94-1.09)		
All penicillins	0.99 (0.95-1.03)	1.01 (0.96-1.06)	0.99 (0.97-1.02)		
Amoxicillins	0.98 (0.94-1.03)	1.00 (0.95-1.03)	0.99 (0.96-1.02)		
Penicillin	1.04 (0.92-1.18)	1.02 (0.87-1.20)	1.03 (0.92-1.09)		
Macrolides	0.90 (0.79-1.04)	0.85 (0.72-1.02)	0.99 (0.91-1.08)		
Use in First 2 y of Life					
Any antibiotic	0.99 (0.95-1.02)	0.99 (0.95-1.04)	1.01 (0.99-1.04)		
β-Lactam antibiotics	0.99 (0.95-1.03)	1.00 (0.95-1.05)	1.01 (0.98-1.04)		
Cephalosporins	0.91 (0.78-1.06)	0.93 (0.78-1.11)	1.04 (0.96-1.13)		
All penicillins	1.00 (0.95-1.05)	1.01 (0.96-1.07)	1.01 (0.98-1.04)		
Amoxicillins	0.99 (0.94-1.04)	1.01 (0.95-1.07)	1.01 (0.97-1.04)		
Penicillin	1.09 (0.94-1.26)	1.05 (0.87-1.27)	1.00 (0.91-1.11)		
Macrolides	0.92 (0.79-1.07)	0.86 (0.71-1.04)	1.04 (0.95-1.14)		
Use in First Year of Life					
Any antibiotic	1.01 (0.95-1.07)	1.00 (0.93-1.07)	1.03 (0.99-1.07)		
β-Lactam antibiotics	1.01 (0.95-1.07)	1.00 (0.93-1.08)	1.03 (0.99-1.07)		
Cephalosporins	0.87 (0.69-1.09)	0.95 (0.74-1.24)	1.03 (0.90-1.17)		
All penicillins	1.03 (0.96-1.10)	1.01 (0.92-1.10)	1.04 (0.99-1.09)		
Amoxicillins	1.03 (0.95-1.10)	1.01 (0.92-1.11)	1.03 (0.98-1.09)		
Penicillin	1.09 (0.87-1.36)	1.03 (0.76-1.40)	1.10 (0.94-1.30)		
Macrolides	0.92 (0.74-1.14)	0.92 (0.70-1.19)	1.12 (0.96-1.31)		
Use 1 y Before Seroconversion Period					
Any antibiotic	1.00 (0.95-1.06)	0.99 (0.93-1.06)	1.04 (0.99-1.08)		
β-Lactam antibiotics	1.01 (0.95-1.07)	1.00 (0.93-1.08)	1.04 (0.99-1.09)		
Cephalosporins	0.89 (0.72-1.11)	0.71 (0.50-1.00)	1.08 (0.93-1.26)		
All penicillins	1.02 (0.96-1.09)	1.03 (0.96-1.12)	1.04 (0.99-1.09)		
Amoxicillins	1.02 (0.96-1.10)	1.03 (0.95-1.12)	1.04 (0.98-1.10)		
Penicillin	0.99 (0.80-1.23)	1.06 (0.82-1.37)	1.06 (0.93-1.21)		
Macrolides	0.93 (0.75-1.15)	0.87 (0.67-1.14)	1.05 (0.90-1.22)		

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted for country of residence, sex, first-degree relative with type 1 diabetes or celiac disease, HLA genotype, caesarian delivery, probiotic use before age 90 days, breastfeeding status at age 90 days, maternal antibiotic use during pregnancy, and season of birth.

tive, first-year, and second-year exposure, as well as exposure to any antibiotic category in the year before the seroconversion period, was not associated with IA or multiple islet autoantibodies (**Table 2**). Further examination during the more vulnerable periods showed that antibiotic use soon after birth and just before seroconversion was also not associated with IA or multiple islet autoantibodies (eTable 2 in the Supplement).

### Antibiotic Use and the Risk of CDA

Celiac disease autoimmunity developed in 783 of 6558 individuals (11.9%) before age 49.5 months (eFigure 1 in the Supplement). The median age at CDA seroconversion was 30.6 months (range, 23.7-37.9). Exposure to antibiotics cumulatively, up to 6 months, during the first or second year of life, and within 6 months before the seroconversion period was not associated with CDA (Table 2 and eTable 2 in the Supplement). There was a weak association between any antibiotic use 0 to 3 months before the seroconversion period (HR, 1.11; 95% CI, 1.00-1.22; P = .05), which was not statistically significant after correction for multiple testing (eTable 2 in the Supplement).

#### Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analyses were performed to evaluate the consistency of the primary results across the TEDDY countries. No significant associations with IA or CDA were found. There were no significant nonlinear associations with frequency of use  $(0, 1-2, 2-3, or \ge 4 \text{ doses})$  up to ages 1, 2, and 4 years for antibiotic use on the risk of developing IA. No significant associations were found with the interaction of season of antibiotic use and specific antibiotic type assessed for the intervals 0 to 3 months and 3 to 6 months before the seroconversion period and the risk of developing IA or CDA. Although not significant after adjustment for multiple comparisons, a small subgroup of children who received 2 or more doses of macrolides within the first year of life (157 of 6558 [2.4%]) had elevated CDA risk (HR, 1.77; 95% CI, 1.18-2.66; P = .006 before adjustment) compared with children who received fewer than 2 doses of macrolides (6401 of 6558 [97.6%]). No other associations were observed with CDA risk. Finally, maternal use of antibiotics during pregnancy was evaluated as a risk factor but did not significantly contribute to IA or CDA risk (P > .05).

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## Discussion

This multinational prospective cohort study found no evidence of antibiotic use influencing the risk of T1D or CDrelated autoimmunity in the first 4 years of life in a genetically at-risk population. This finding was true for cephalosporins, penicillins, and macrolides, which composed 70.5% of all antibiotic use in the first 48 months of life among children in the TEDDY study. While the use of specific antibiotics differed across the TEDDY countries (eFigure 2 in the Supplement), there was no association between antibiotic use and either autoimmune state (IA or CDA) in any of the 4 countries studied.

The results of previously published rodent studies<sup>2-9</sup> suggest that diabetes outcomes are dependent on both the type of antibiotic and the timing of exposure. However, 9 of 10 antibiotics used in those studies did not have significant use in the TEDDY study (<3% of use before age 48 months). Trimethoprim was the only antibiotic used in a rodent study<sup>3</sup> that was commonly used in the TEDDY study (10.9% of use before age 48 months) but was not investigated herein because the level of use was insufficient to power the analysis. In the TEDDY study, commonly prescribed antibiotics were not associated with IA or CDA risk.

Previous cohort studies<sup>10,21-24</sup> have provided conflicting results on an association between antibiotic use and T1D. However, even when an association was observed, it could not be determined in those studies if the association between increased antibiotic use before T1D was caused by preclinical T1D and impaired glycemic control,<sup>10,25</sup> which may increase susceptibility to infections.<sup>25-27</sup> In contrast, prospective recording of antibiotic use over a 4-year period in the TEDDY study allowed for determination of exposures before the onset of IA and preclinical T1D. Therefore, the antibiotics analyzed in this study were taken before the development of any autoantibodies and were shown not to be a risk factor for IA or CDA. To date, one other relevant prospective study<sup>22</sup> exists, and it limited examination of antibiotic use to the first week of life. Screening for islet autoantibodies also allowed for stratified analyses based on the type of first-appearing autoantibody because IAA-first and GADA-first seroconversion may have different primary triggers.<sup>18</sup>

Two previous studies<sup>11,12</sup> have shown a link between antibiotic use and CD risk in humans, but neither could delineate whether antibiotic use was simply a response to the manifestation of undiagnosed disease.<sup>28</sup> A study<sup>29</sup> in Sweden found no evidence of increased CD risk with antibiotic use in the first 6 months of life. To our knowledge, the present TEDDY study is the first tTGA screening study to examine associations between antibiotic use and CDA.

Recently, no association between reported bacterial infectious episodes and IA or CDA risk was demonstrated in the first 4 years of life in the TEDDY cohort, <sup>30,31</sup> consistent with the observation herein that antibiotic use also did not influence the risk of autoimmunity. Meanwhile, evidence is mounting for a role of viral infections in the etiology of T1D and CD in the TEDDY study, with gastrointestinal and respiratory infections associated with an increased risk of CDA and IA, respectively.<sup>30,31</sup>

However, both T1D and CD have also been linked to alterations of the human gut microbiome,<sup>32-36</sup> which is necessary for proper development of the immune system and establishment of oral tolerance in early life.37,38 Antibiotic influences on the gut microbiome during gestation and immediately after birth may have a detrimental effect on proper development of the microbiome and thus priming of the immune system.<sup>39-44</sup> However, previous cohort studies have not found any significant associations between antibiotic use in the first week of life and the risk of T1D autoimmunity<sup>32,44</sup> or between antibiotic use during pregnancy and increased risk of either T1D or CD.<sup>44</sup> Similarly, in the Finnish study,<sup>32</sup> in which Bacteroides dorei was found to have increased abundance before the onset of T1D autoimmunity, no effect of antibiotic use was observed, and each B dorei genome sequenced from this cohort comprised more than 50 antibiotic resistance genes.<sup>45</sup> Therefore, B dorei in those children would likely survive after treatment with antibiotics. Because the use of  $\beta$ -lactam and macrolides antibiotics was not a risk factor for IA or CDA in the TEDDY study, the gut bacteria influenced by these antibiotics likely do not have a role in autoimmunity.

#### Limitations

A limitation of this study was that antibiotic use was not captured by medical records or pharmacy-based registries but was reported by the parents. To reduce error in parental record keeping, the TEDDY protocol required the parents to record any medication use in real time. This method captured the use of medications beyond those prescribed by a physician. The present study was also limited by retrospective collection of maternal antibiotic use during pregnancy and lacked detailed records of the specific antibiotic used by the mother during pregnancy. Therefore, although recollection of medication use during pregnancy may not be optimal, maternal antibiotic use during pregnancy was a binary variable, which limits the potential for overestimating or underestimating use.

## Conclusions

The use of antibiotics in early childhood does not increase the risk of IA or CDA in genetically at-risk individuals. This finding suggests that autoimmunity for these 2 diseases is not associated with bacterial infections but does not exclude an association with viral infections or gut bacteria resistant to commonly prescribed antibiotics. Therefore, there is no evidence herein to suggest that current clinical practice in the administration of the major classes of antibiotics should be revised to avoid an increased risk of T1D or CDA in young children.

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Additional Contributions: Steven Fiske, BS, and Rachel Richesson, BS, at The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) Data Coordinating Center worked on the medical coding system and integration of RxNorm and TEDDY medication codes. Mike Haller, MD (College of Medicine, University of Florida) reviewed the antibiotic data to identify parenteral compounds for removal. No compensation was received by these individuals.

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## **Supplementary Online Content**

Kemppainen KM, Vehik K, Lynch KF, et al; The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) Study Group. Association between early-life antibiotic use and the risk of islet or celiac disease autoimmunity. *JAMA Pediatr.* Published online October 9, 2017. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2017.2905

eFigure 1. Study Population for Both IA Data Cohort and CDA Data Cohort

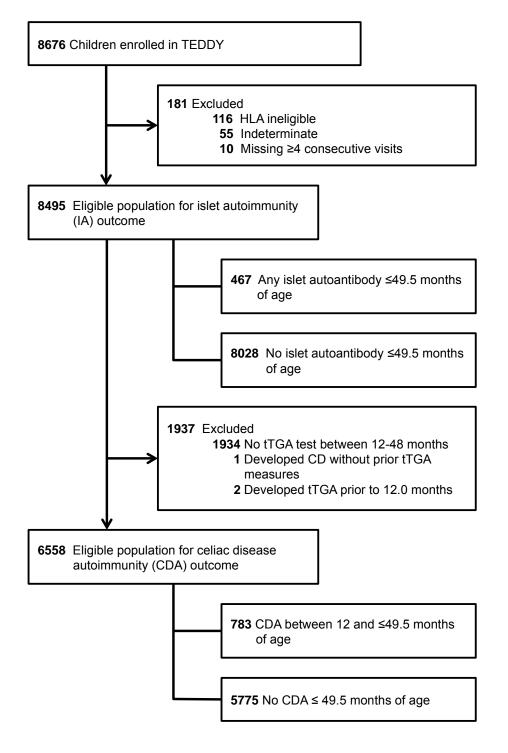
**eFigure 2.** Percentage of Children in Each TEDDY Country That Has Reported Use of Each Antibiotic Group

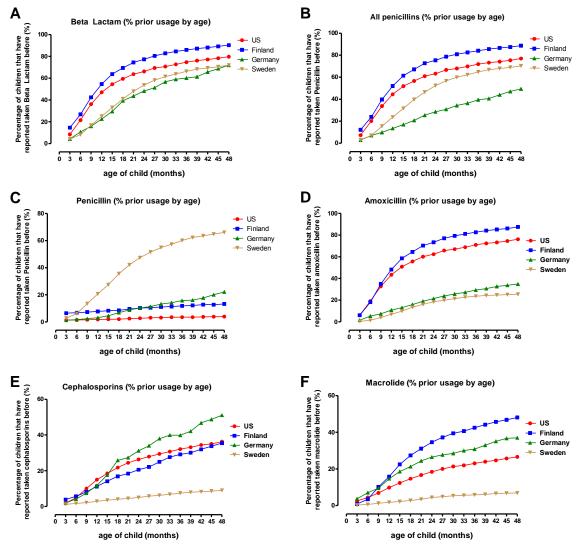
eTable 1. List of Medication Ingredients in Each Major Antibiotic Category

**eTable 2.** Antibiotics Use Over Time on Risk of IA, Multiple Islet Autoantibodies, and CDA Examined in Separate Proportional Hazards Model

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

**eFigure 1.** Study Population for Both IA Data Cohort and CDA Data Cohort. Data as of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.





eFigure 2. Percentage of Children in Each TEDDY Country That Has Reported Use of Each Antibiotic Group

Major antibiotic category	Medication ingredients		
Amoxicillins	Amoxicillin		
	Amoxicillin + Clavulanic Acid		
	Amoxicillin + Clavulanate		
	Amoxicillin Trihydrate		
Penicillins	Amdinocillin Pivoxil		
	Ampicillin		
	Ampicillin + Sulbactam + Sultamicillin		
	Cloxacillin		
	Dicloxacillin		
	Floxacillin		
	Penicillin		
	Penicillin G		
	Penicillin V		
	Pivampicillin		
Carbapenems	Meropenem		
•			
Macrolides	Azithromycin		
	Clarithromycin		
	Erythromycin		
	Erythromycin lactobionate + Colistimethate sodium		
	Erythromycin + Sulfisoxazole		
	Roxithromycin		
	Spiramycin		
Cephalosporins	Cefaclor		
	Cefadroxil		
	Cefazolin		
	Cefdinir		
	Cefepime		
	Cefixime		
	Cefotaxime		
	Cefoxitin		
	Cefpodoxime		
	Cefprozil		
	Ceftazidime		
	Ceftibuten		
	Ceftriaxone		
	Ceftriaxone + Lidocaine		
	Cefuroxime		
	Cephalexin		
	Cephradine		

eTable 1. List of Medication Ingredients in Each Major Antibiotic Category

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Exposure (/n)	IA	Multiple islet	CDA
		autoantibodies	
	HR <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)	HR <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)	HR <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)
Use in the first 6 months			
of life			
Any antibiotic	0.99 (0.89 – 1.11)	0.99 (0.86 – 1.14)	1.05 (0.97 – 1.13)
Beta Lactam antibiotic	1.03 (0.91 – 1.15)	1.01 (0.87 – 1.18)	1.05 (0.97 – 1.15)
Cephalosporins	0.94 (0.65 - 1.36)	1.04 (0.68 – 1.62)	1.04 (0.79 – 1.36)
All penicillins	1.04 (0.92 – 1.19)	1.01 (0.85 – 1.20)	1.07 (0.97 – 1.18)
Amoxicillin	1.02 (0.89 - 1.18)	1.01 (0.84 – 1.22)	1.06 (0.96 – 1.18)
Penicillin	1.19 (0.83 – 1.71)	1.03 (0.62 – 1.70)	1.10 (0.82 - 1.48)
Macrolide	0.66 (0.39 – 1.11)	0.77 (0.45 – 1.33)	1.04 (0.77 – 1.39)
0-3 months prior to			
seroconversion period			
Any antibiotic	0.99 (0.86 - 1.13)	1.06 (0.91 – 1.23)	1.11 (1.00 – 1.22)
Beta Lactam antibiotic	0.99 (0.86 - 1.15)	1.07 (0.91 – 1.26)	1.10 (0.99 – 1.23)
Cephalosporins	0.66 (0.37 – 1.19)	0.38 (0.13 – 1.12)	1.12 (0.79 – 1.60)
All penicillins	1.03 (0.89 – 1.21)	1.14 (0.97 – 1.36)	1.10 (0.98 - 1.24)
Amoxicillin	1.03 (0.87 – 1.22)	1.14 (0.95 – 1.36)	1.13 (1.00 – 1.29)
Penicillin	1.08 (0.69 - 1.70)	1.26 (0.74 – 2.15)	0.98 (0.71 – 1.35)
Macrolide	0.91 (0.58 - 1.45)	1.01 (0.61 – 1.69)	1.25 (0.91 – 1.72)
<b>3-6 months prior to</b>			
seroconversion period			
Any antibiotic	0.95 (0.82 - 1.09)	1.03 (0.88 – 1.20)	1.10 (1.00 – 1.21)
Beta Lactam antibiotic	0.96 (0.82 - 1.12)	1.05 (0.89 – 1.24)	1.11 (1.00 – 1.23)
Cephalosporins	0.73 (0.42 - 1.28)	0.87 (0.47 - 1.60)	1.21 (0.88 - 1.67)
All penicillins	0.98 (0.83 - 1.16)	1.08 (0.90 - 1.29)	1.11 (0.99 – 1.23)
Amoxicillin	0.95 (0.79 - 1.15)	1.10 (0.91 – 1.33)	1.12 (0.99 – 1.26)
Penicillin	1.17 (0.77 - 1.80)	0.91 (0.49 - 1.70)	1.08 (0.81 - 1.45)
Macrolide	0.81 (0.48 - 1.38)	0.82 (0.44 - 1.52)	1.07 (0.76 - 1.51)

**eTable 2.** Antibiotics Use Over Time on Risk of IA, Multiple Islet Autoantibodies, and CDA Examined in Separate Proportional Hazards Model

Abbreviations: IA, islet autoimmunity; CDA, celiac disease autoimmunity; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for HLA, first degree relative status, season of birth, sex, breastfeeding status at 90 days of age, Caesarian Section, maternal antibiotic use in utero, probiotics use started by 90 days of age and country of residence