

## **Maternal and paternal conduct disorder, parental exposure to cigarette smoke, and other risk factors for the development of conduct disorder**

Mark Zoccolillo, McGill University

Conduct disorder in childhood predicts a poor adult outcome, characterized by pervasive social dysfunction. Conduct disorder is also a familial disorder. Nonetheless, longitudinal studies of risk factors for the development of disruptive behaviour disorders in children rarely assess parental histories of conduct disorder. Many apparent environmental risk factors may well be only risk markers for families with antisocial parents, where development of offspring disruptive behaviour is through genetic or other unmeasured environmental risk factors. Conversely, genetic studies of conduct disorder have rarely assessed environmental risk, which is likely to be highly correlated with genetic risk. In the LSCDQ (ÉLDEQ), parental conduct and adult antisocial symptoms are assessed in both parents when the infant is 5 months of age, and antisocial behaviour in missing fathers is assessed by maternal interview. Both maternal and paternal conduct disorder are highly associated with a number of putative risk factors, including exposure to prenatal smoke; exposure to illegal drugs in utero; young maternal age at birth; low parental educational attainment; insufficient family income; single mother household; parental alcohol use; parental illegal substance use; and coercive parenting. Latent class modelling between maternal and paternal conduct disorder; parental educational attainment; and exposure to prenatal smoke demonstrates there is an association between father's history of conduct disorder and exposure of the infant to prenatal smoke (independent of maternal conduct disorder), probably mediated through assertive mating for educational and smoking status. The implications of these findings for research on the origins of conduct disorder and the inter-generational transmission of risk will be discussed, along with techniques for assessing parental conduct and adult antisocial disorder in large longitudinal studies.