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## KEY FACTORS DETERMINING CHIDREN'S HEALTH IN EARLY ONTOGENESIS

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**Abstract:** Early ontogenesis is a critical period that shapes an individual's physical, cognitive, and emotional health. Numerous factors, including genetic predisposition, maternal health, nutrition, environmental conditions, and socio-economic status, play a crucial role in determining a child's well-being. The study highlights the importance of early interventions, healthcare accessibility, and a supportive environment in ensuring optimal development.

**Keywords:** used included "early childhood health determinants," "prenatal care," and "environmental influences on child health."

The early years of life are foundational for long-term health and well-being. During early ontogenesis, rapid physical, neurological, and cognitive developments occur, making this period crucial for a child's future. Health outcomes in childhood are influenced by a complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and social factors. Understanding these determinants allows for the formulation of evidence-based interventions to optimize childhood health and development.

Maternal health, prenatal care, early nutrition, and environmental conditions all contribute significantly to a child's physical and mental growth. For instance, adequate prenatal care and proper nutrition can prevent congenital disorders and developmental delays. Additionally, socioeconomic factors such as family income, parental education, and access to healthcare services shape a child's opportunities for a healthy start in life. This review explores key determinants of children's health in early ontogenesis, highlighting their implications for policy-making and public health strategies.

Key determinants of children's health in early ontogenesis. Genetic and biological factors. Genetic inheritance contributes to disease susceptibility and developmental outcomes. Studies indicate that congenital disorders, metabolic conditions, and hereditary diseases impact early childhood health. Additionally, epigenetic modifications due to maternal lifestyle and environmental exposures influence gene expression patterns.

Maternal health and prenatal care. Maternal health during pregnancy is a key determinant of newborn well-being. Factors such as prenatal nutrition, stress levels, and medical care access significantly affect fetal development. Insufficient prenatal care has been linked to low birth weight and developmental delays.

Nutrition and early feeding practices. Proper nutrition during infancy and early childhood is vital for cognitive and physical growth. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months is associated

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with improved immunity and reduced morbidity rates. Malnutrition, including both undernutrition and overnutrition, poses serious health risks such as stunted growth and obesity.

Environmental influences. Exposure to pollutants, unsafe water, and poor sanitation conditions negatively affects child health. Research suggests that air pollution contributes to respiratory illnesses, while lead exposure impacts cognitive development. Living conditions and housing quality also play a crucial role in determining health outcomes.

Socio-economic and psychological factors. Parental income, education level, and social support networks influence a child's well-being. Children from lower-income families often face higher risks of malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and developmental delays. Additionally, early childhood psychological stressors, such as parental conflict or neglect, affect emotional and cognitive outcomes.

Findings indicate that early interventions, including maternal healthcare improvements, nutritional programs, and policy-driven environmental protections, can mitigate adverse health effects in children. Comprehensive healthcare strategies should focus on education, preventive care, and socioeconomic support systems.

Conclusion. Children's health in early ontogenesis is shaped by complex interactions between genetic, nutritional, environmental, and socio-economic factors. Addressing these determinants through targeted policies and parental guidance can significantly enhance childhood well-being and long-term health outcomes.

Investing in maternal healthcare, ensuring adequate nutrition, and promoting safe environments for young children are crucial steps in improving public health. Governments and healthcare providers must work together to establish programs that provide families with access to healthcare, parental education, and resources for child development. In addition, interdisciplinary collaboration between pediatricians, nutritionists, educators, and social workers can help develop holistic strategies that address multiple determinants of child health.

Research in this field should continue to focus on the interplay between genetics and environmental factors, identifying key intervention points that yield the highest benefits for children's health. By understanding and acting on these early determinants, society can ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a healthy and supportive environment.

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