

Managing Pre- and Postnatal Ovarian Cysts: Safety of A Conservative Approach

A Long-Term Prospective Multicentre Study

We are inviting prenatal centres, paediatric surgery units and paediatric and adolescent gynecologists across Germany, Switzerland and Austria to join our multicentre study!

Background

Ovarian cysts, often found incidentally during routine prenatal exams, are the most common cystic lesions in newborns. While many resolve spontaneously before or after birth, a subset persists. Current management is variable and largely experience-based. It is known that surgery in this age group often results in oophorectomy. Robust prospective data to guide clinical decision-making are currently lacking.

Study Aim

The primary aim of this study is to prospectively assess long-term preservation of ovarian function after conservative management of pre- and postnatal ovarian cysts. Management will be guided by a treatment protocol.

Study Design

This research project is the first prospective long-term multicentre study to systematically document the clinical course of ovarian cysts from prenatal diagnosis through puberty. Short term outcomes will be evaluated at 6, 12 and 24 months of age.

Profile of Participating Centres

We are seeking for centres/clinicians managing children with prenatally or postnatally diagnosed ovarian cyst, it is also possible to participate as an interdisciplinary tandem - a prenatal centre (DEGUM / SGUM / ÖGUM Level II or III) and a postnatal team (paediatric surgery or paediatric and adolescent gynecology) – working together at the same institution or through an established cross-institutional collaboration.

Benefits for Participating Centres

Participating centres and clinicians have the opportunity to collaborate within *ORCA (Ovarian Cyst Research Collaborative Alliance)*, a newly formed research network dedicated to improving the management of ovarian cysts in children and adolescents. By participating, you will contribute to future guidelines for pre- and postnatal ovarian cysts, an area currently lacking standardised, evidence-based management.

Current Status

The study protocol and treatment algorithm are currently being drafted. A kick-off-meeting involving all interested centres and clinicians is envisioned in fall/winter 2026 to discuss treatment algorithm and the next steps regarding ethics approval.

Contact

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**Express your interest
by 20th November 2026!**

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