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Birth weight discordance and increased neonatal and infant mortality rates among Japanese zygotic twins

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The relationship between birth weight discordance (BWD) and infant mortality rate (IMR) among zygotic twins was analyzed among Japanese population during 1995-2008. 128,236 monozygotic (MZ) and 180,920 dizygotic (DZ) twins were used as denominators to compute IMRs and neonatal mortality rate (NMR) in zygotic twins. Numbers of infant deaths were 1,858 MZ and 1,620 DZ twins and neonatal deaths were 1,522 and 1,329, respectively. Proportions of neonatal deaths among infant deaths were 82% for both zygotic twins. BWD levels were classified into seven groups from <5% to 30% \geq . The lowest IMR was 7.5 per 1000 live births at 5-9% in MZ and 6.7 at <5% in DZ twins. IMRs were significantly higher in MZ than DZ twins except two BWD levels from 5%-9% to 10-14%. The lowest IMR in MZ twins was significantly increased after 10-14%. The lowest IMR in DZ twins was 6.7 at <5% and significantly increased at 10-14% and after 25-29%. The relationship between neonatal mortality rate (NMR) and BWD was analyzed for 1999-2008. NMR was the lowest at 5-9% (6.1) in MZ and at <5% (4.0) in DZ twins. The NMR was significantly higher in MZ than DZ twins except 15-19%. As for MZ twins, the lowest NMR at 5-9% significantly increased after 15-19%. The lowest NMR in DZ twins at <5% was significantly increased with BWD after 10-14%. NMRs in DZ twins were 4.0 at <5% and slowly increased with BWD levels by 25-29% (8.4) and suddenly increased after \geq 30% (24.6).

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