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## **Parental reports of infant and child eating behaviors are not affected by their beliefs about their twins' zygosity**

Moritz Herle, University College London (UCL); Alison Fildes, UCL; Fruhling Rijdsdijk, Institute of Psychiatry; Clare Llewellyn, UCL

This is the first study to examine if parental reports of their pediatric twins' behavior were biased by their beliefs about their zygosity. Data were from Gemini, a British birth cohort of 2402 twin pairs born in 2007. Zygosity was assessed using: (i) a 20-item validated parent report questionnaire completed when twins were 8.0 months old ( $SD = 2.1$ ), and again at 28.8 months ( $SD = 3.3$ ); and (ii) DNA. Parents were asked if they believed their twins were monozygotic (MZ) or dizygotic (DZ). 220/749 MZ pairs were misclassified by parents as DZ; 6/800 DZ pairs were misclassified as MZ. Intraclass correlations (ICCs) for a range of parent reported eating behaviors (4 measured at 8 months, 5 at 16 months) were of the same magnitude for both correctly classified and misclassified MZ pairs. This suggests parents are not influenced by their twins' zygosity when reporting on the eating behaviors of infants and young children.