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## The timing of previous pregnancy termination and its impacts on subsequent birth: a nationwide registry-based study

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Termination of pregnancy (TOP) has been associated with adverse birth outcomes. However, only a few studies have taken into account the possible influence of gestational age at the time of TOP on a subsequent birth. The aim of the study was to explore whether the timing of prior TOP influences the birth outcome in subsequent birth. This cohort study included all first-time mothers (n=418,690) with a singleton birth in Finland between 1996 and 2013. Outcomes were poorer for extremely preterm birth, very preterm birth and very low birth weight amongst women having TOP at later gestational ages as compared to women having no TOP. After adjustments for confounders, higher risk was determined for extremely preterm birth, very preterm birth and very low birth weight in the women having had late TOP as compared to women who have had early TOP. When the analysis was restricted to only one TOP, an additional increased risk was found for small gestational age amongst women with late TOP as compared to those with early TOP. Higher risks were found for extremely preterm birth and very low birth weight amongst women with at least two late TOPs than those with at least two early TOPs. TOP at later gestational ages is associated with the poorer birth outcomes than TOP at early gestational ages.