

Understanding the Association between Eating Disorders and Autoimmune/Autoinflammatory Diseases

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Eating disorders are common in teens and young adults. Have you ever considered whether autoimmune or autoinflammatory diseases are associated with eating disorders?

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Eating disorders are common in teens and young adults. Have you ever considered whether autoimmune or autoinflammatory diseases are associated with eating disorders? Zerwas et al. ([10.1542/peds.2016-2089](#)) present the results of their findings from a national population-based cohort study from Denmark of children born between 1989 and 2006 followed to 2012. More than 930,000 children and teens were in this longitudinal cohort. Perhaps to everyone's surprise including the authors', there was an association between autoimmune/autoinflammatory diseases and eating disorders like anorexia nervosa and bulimia.

Just how does an autoimmune or autoinflammatory disease trigger an uptick in eating disorders? We asked behavioral and developmental specialists Drs. Rebecca Hommer and Susan Swedo from the National Institute of Mental Health to share their thoughts in an accompanying commentary ([10.1542/peds.2017-3060](#)). Their perspective makes us think of bidirectional and even multigenerational mechanisms for this association. Both the article and commentary are informative and thoughtful so check both out via the links provided above.

- [Celiac Disease and Anorexia Nervosa: A Nationwide Study](#)
- [Celiac Disease and Anorexia Nervosa—An Association Well Worth Considering](#)
- [Physical and Psychological Morbidity in Adolescents With Atypical Anorexia Nervosa](#)
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