

Mechanisms and Consequences from Developmental Exposure to Toxicants

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Estrogen receptors (ER) are thought to play a crucial role in development, reproduction, carcinogenesis, and normal physiology. The activity of agents which alter this normal functionality will manifest as disease and endocrine related disorders with effects on fertility. Developmental periods (fetal and neonatal) are of known sensitivities. Estrogen action occurs through several possible mechanisms involving ligand dependent receptor action and ligand independent mechanisms. Receptor activity can be modulated by environmental agents producing long term epigenetic effects.