

Role of early seizures in etiogenesis of developmental retardation and autistic disorders

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The Egyptian Journal of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Neurosurgery (Print)

2004 v41 n2

This clinical longitudinal study was performed on 105 patients with an age ranged from 6 months to 6 years. They were followed up for six years. The patients were classified into three groups according to the time of diagnosis and time of starting proper treatment, type of seizure, EEG and MRI pictures. Group 1 included 35 patients who were diagnosed and started treatment within 8 weeks of onset. Group 2 included 18 patients whose diagnosis and treatment were delayed for 8 weeks, but proper treatment started before 24 weeks. Group 3 included 52 patient whose diagnosis and treatment were delayed for 24 weeks. EEG was done for diagnosis, then for follow up. MRI was also done for diagnosis and exclusion. Psychological and developmental assessment was done for diagnosis, then every three months. The results showed an improvement of the mental functions and nearly normal developmental progress in most of the early diagnosed and treated patients, in whom seizures were controlled. The psychological and developmental assessment scores of group 1 were better than those of group 2. The study concluded that there is a possible under-estimation of the number of children with developmental retardation, directly caused by a relatively hidden epilepsy.