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Artículo:

Epilepsy in Children With Cerebral Palsy

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To study the spectrum of epilepsy in children with cerebral palsy, 105 consecutive children with cerebral palsy and active epilepsy, between 1 and 14 years of age, were studied prospectively. A detailed history and examination, electroencephalography (EEG), and computed tomography (CT) were done in all cases. The social quotient was assessed using the Vineland Social Maturity Scale.

A retrospective cohort of 452 cases of cerebral palsy was studied to find the prevalence of epilepsy in cerebral palsy. A control group of 60 age-matched children with cerebral palsy but no epilepsy was also studied for comparison of the social quotient. Of the 105 children, 65 were male, 40 of 105 (38%) had a history of birth asphyxia.

The mean age of onset of seizures was 18.9 months; 64 (60.95%) had seizure onset before 1 year of age.

Children with myoclonic seizures ($P < .05$) and infantile spasms ($P < .01$) had seizure onset significantly early in life. Generalized seizures were the most common, followed by partial seizures, infantile spasms, and other myoclonic seizures. Seizures were controlled in 45 (58.1%) children, and polytherapy was required in 40 children. EEG and CT abnormalities were seen in 70.5% and 61% of the children.

Seizure control was achieved in 74% of the patients with a normal to borderline social quotient compared with 48.7% with a social quotient less than 70. Social quotient values had a positive correlation with age of onset of seizures ($P < .01$) and with better control of seizures ($P < .01$). Of the cohort of 452 children, 160 (35.4%) had epilepsy.

The maximum incidence (66%) was seen in children with spastic hemiplegia, followed by quadriplegia (42.6%) and diplegia (15.8%). Epilepsy in cerebral palsy is seen in about one third of cases; it is often severe and difficult to control, particularly in children with mental retardation.

Singhi P, et al 2003;18:174-179.