Analysis of Self Concept in Children Sustaining A Brachial Plexus Birth Injury


Methods/Materials

31 children
- 14 males, 17 females
- Average age: 11 years (range 7-18)
- Level of Injury: C5/C6 (19 patients); C5/C6/C7 (7 patients); Global (5 patients)

The following standardized tests were administered and scored:
- Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration (Beery VMI)
- Behavior Assessment for Children (BASC-2) Parent Form
- Draw A Person (DAP) Screening Procedure for Emotional Disturbance (SPED)
- Piers Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale (Piers Harris)

Results

BEERY VMI
- Age Equivalence ±6 mos of age: 19%
- Age Equivalence >6 mos above age: 16%
- Age Equivalence >6 mos below age: 65%

BASC
- Behavioral Symptom Index
  - Within Normal Limits: 90%
  - At Risk: 10%
  - Clinically Significant Range: 0%
- Adaptive Skills
  - Within Normal Limits: 90%
  - At Risk: 7%
  - Clinically Significant Range: 3%

DAP-SPED
- Further evaluation:
  - Not indicated: 58%
  - Indicated: 32%
  - Strongly Indicated: 10%

PIERS HARRIS
- Average: 45%
- Low Average: 16%
- High Average/High: 32%

Conclusion

- Affected upper limb asymmetry is a common clinical finding in children who have sustained a brachial plexus birth injury
- Emotional/behavioral testing in this small pilot study demonstrated some psychological issues, however no clearly defined relationship to injury has been established
- Although most children were found to score within normal limits on these tests, there was a small subset that may be at risk for emotional or behavioral difficulties.
- Standardized psychological screening tests should be considered as part of the rehabilitation program in children with a brachial plexus birth injury
- Members of the team should evaluate, monitor and make appropriate mental health referrals as needed.

References