BLADDER AND BOWEL DYSFUNCTION IN CHILDREN WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY: A MISSED PROBLEM?

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Bladder and bowel dysfunctions (BBD) in children with spinal cord injuries (SCI) have been evaluated as in cerebral palsy (CP). Scant data are available in acquired brain injury (ABI). Aim of our study is to evaluate BBD risk and incidence in ABI children.

Material & Method: All new patients admitted in our Neuro-Rehabilitation Department from the 1st July to the 30th September, aged 3 to 18 years old, were evaluated. Data were collected considering clinical diagnosis, International Consultation on Incontinence Modular Questionnaire (ICIQ), Wee-FIM Scale, Bristol scale, Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS) and the Communication Function Classification System (CFCS). Statistical analysis was performed with Microsoft SPSS, p < 0,001 was considered signficative.

Results: 64 patients were evaluated: 4 were excluded (3 refused, 1 not completing screening) 30 presented CP, 17 ABI, 3 SCI, 10 others neurological pathologies. 31 were females and 29 were males, with an average age of 8 + 3,5 SD years.

About ABI patients none of them had never evaluated before by pediatric urologist. No statistical difference is present between ABI and CP.

Conclusion: ABI is an heterogenous group of patients with vascular, oncological, traumatic brain injury. ICIQ is a valid screener ABI for detecting BBD. BBD are present in ABI as in CP and we can consider BBD a missed problem in ABI reclaiming major attention.

REFERENCES: