Poster Symposium Presentations

237 THE OBSERVATIONAL RATING SCALE OF PARENTAL INTERACTIONS (ORSPI): A USEFUL MEASURE OF THE QUALITY OF FATHERS' INTERACTIONS WITH THEIR INFANTS?

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¹J Taylor, ²K Benzies, ³J Magill-Evans, ¹C Beer, ¹C Glazebrook. ¹School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK; ²Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary, Calgary; ³Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Background and aims The quality of father-infant interaction impacts on infant developmental outcomes and is increasingly targeted for intervention. Review of the literature reveals few measures to assess the quality of parent-infant interaction during a structured task. Studies exploring the quality of fathers' interactions have to date, only used the costly and time-consuming Nursing Child Teaching Assessment Scale (NCATS) to rate father-infant interaction. This study aims to explore the reliability and validity of the ORSPI as a measure of the quality of father-infant interaction.

Method Videotapes of 152 five-month old and 74 eight-month old father-infant dyads interacting during a structured task were rated using the 8 item ORSPI scale (scores range from 1–15). Total ORSPI scores were correlated with previously rated NCATS scores. Internal consistency and intra-rater reliability of the ORSPI were also assessed.

Results ORSPI scores were significantly positively correlated with NCATS total caregiver scores for five-month dyads (r=0.513, p<0.001) and eight-month dyads (r=0.634, p<0.001) indicating good concurrent validity. The ORSPI had excellent intra-rater reliability (ICC=0.931) and satisfactory internal consistency (five-month old dyads: Cronbach's alpha=0.522; eight-month old dyads: Cronbach's alpha=0.522; eight-month old dyads: Cronbach's alpha=0.590). Father-infant dyads rated at both five and eight months old (N=74) showed that scores decreased significantly over time Wilcoxon signed rank test (ORSPI: Z=-2.277, p=0.023; NCATS Z=-3.059, p=0.002).

Conclusions The ORSPI has good concurrent validity, correlating with the highly regarded NCATS, and was both easy to use and reliable. These findings support its use as a simple measure of the quality of father-infant interaction.

238 IQ AND INTRAUTERINE GROWTH RESTRICTION IN YOUNG ADULTS BORN SMALL-FOR-GESTATIONAL-AGE AT TERM

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¹HF Oestgaard, ²GCC Løhaugen, ³AM Brubakk, ³M Martinussen, ³J Skranes. ¹Department of Laboratory Medicine, Children and Women's Health, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim; ²Department of Pediatrics, Sørlandet Sykehus, Arendal; ³Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Background and aims How cognitive function is affected by being born small for gestational age (SGA) is not clear. This may be related to different definitions of SGA and the lack of discrimination between those born with intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR) and those who are constitutionally small. Our aim was to study the effect of being born SGA with IUGR on later cognitive functioning.

Methods Population-based follow-up study at age 19 of 59 termborn SGA (birth weight< 10th centile, mean: 2915g) and 81 controls (birth weight>10th centile, mean: 3707g). WAIS III was used to

assess IQ. Foetal weight-deviation was calculated based on repeated ultrasound measurements of biparietal and mid-abdominal diameter at week 25, 33 and 37 of gestation for 29 SGA subjects and 75 controls. Weight-deviations were recorded as positive and negative percentages; zero denoted no deviation from individual expected growth. Mean and standard deviation (sd) for estimated foetal growth in the control group was used to dichotomize the SGA group into normal growth and IUGR (growth deviation of more than -2sd from control mean).

Results The total SGA group had significantly lower IQ scores than the control group (p=0.001). In the subgroup with ultrasound measurements, six SGA subjects (21%) were defined as IUGR. In this subgroup, only these six had significantly lower IQ than controls (IQ 87 vs 101, p=0.003) whereas those with normal growth pattern did not differ from controls.

Conclusions Young adults born SGA had reduced cognitive outcome. This decrease may be confined to SGA young adults with IUGR.

239 THE USE OF THE ASQ-3 AS A POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOL IN AN IRISH POPULATION

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¹C Halling, ²F Malone, ¹D Corcoran. ¹Department of Neonatology; ²Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

Background The Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development is a standardised developmental assessment that assesses children up to 42 months. The goal of the assessment is to identify those children with developmental delay. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) is a standardised developmental questionnaire that parents complete. The purpose of the questionnaire is to identify those children who warrant a more detailed developmental assessment such as The Bayley Scales Assessment.

Aim To assess the ASQ-3 for identification of children with developmental delay in an Irish population.

Methods A cohort of 87 pairs of twins (174 children) was taken from an on-going larger twin study. All children were assessed with both the ASQ-3 and The Bayley Scales Assessment.

Results In our cohort, the ASQ-3 has a sensitivity of 95% and a specificity of 57%. Although the ASQ-3 will give some false positive results, it is a good screening tool for picking up children with potential developmental delay as very few children with true delay will be missed.

Discussion Although The Bayley Scales Assessment is the gold standard for assessment of developmental delay, it is time consuming and must be carried out by a qualified professional. Only those at highest risk for developmental delay are therefore assessed. Our results suggest that the ASQ-3 can be used a screening tool in low risk populations to identify those children who may be at risk for developmental problems.

240 NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE IN YOUNG ADULTS BORN SMALL-FOR-GESTATIONAL-AGE (SGA) AT TERM

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¹H Oestgaard, ¹GCC Løhaugen, ²J Skranes, ²AM Brubakk. ¹Dept of Laboratory Medicine, Children's and Women's Health; ²Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Background and aims Some studies have shown that being born SGA is related to reduced intellectual capacity, learning difficulties and poor school performance. Earlier findings have been diverted,