Conclusions These preliminary results show that children to mothers with bipolar disorder, with or without intrauterine exposure to lithium, had a normal to high IQ at preschool age. 5 more children have been tested, results to be analyzed, and additional children will be recruited.

Prenatal Exposure to Hydroxylated Polychlorinated Biphenyls Is Associated with the Quality of the Motor Repertoire in Three-Month-Old Infants

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Background and Aim Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are ubiquitous environmental toxins, potentially toxic to the developing brain. Hydroxylated PCBs (OH-PCBs) are suggested to be even more toxic because of hydroxylation by the fetus and active transplacental transport of OH-PCBs. Still, little is known about their short-term health effects in humans. We aimed to determine whether prenatal exposure to OH-PCBs is associated with the neurological condition in three-month-old infants, assessed by the quality of the motor repertoire.

Methods In a Dutch observational cohort study, 97 mother-infant pairs participated. Cord blood samples were analyzed for PCB and OH-PCB concentrations. The quality of the motor repertoire was evaluated at 3 months from video-recordings. We determined the quality of General Movements (GMs) and calculated a Motor Optimality Score (MOS) ranging from 5 to 28 (low to high optimality). We explored correlations between PCB/OH-PCB levels and MOS using Spearman’s Rank correlation. Next, we tested whether PCB/OH-PCBs levels differed between infants with ‘low’ (<26) and ‘high’ MOS (≥26).

Results We found no association between PCB/OH-PCB levels and the quality of GMs. Associations existed between several PCB/OH-PCB levels and MOS, including detailed aspects of the motor repertoire. High 4-OH-PCB-107 levels were associated with a low MOS (P=0.013). High PCB-187 levels were associated with reduced midline arm and leg movements (P=0.047 and P=0.043, respectively).

Conclusion Prenatal exposure to higher 4-OH-PCB-107 levels was associated with a non-optimal quality of the motor repertoire in three-month-old infants. This negative effect may be mediated by reduced thyroid hormone concentrations in the brain.

Impact of Watching TV/Playing Games on Mental Health and Learning of UAE Children

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Background United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a rapidly changing society, and little is known about the children’s free-time activities and their interference with the development and behavior. The recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) state that children older than 2 years should watch quality television (TV) programs not more than 2 hours per day, and those younger than 2 years should avoid any TV viewing. Previous studies linked early TV viewing with later developmental and behavioral problems.

Aims Estimate average amount of daily time of TV/video games viewing in UAE children; and sociodemographic, behavior and other variables associated with TV/video games viewing.

Methods In a case control study, 211 school children (69% males, mean age 8.7 years) from United Arab Emirates were investigated. The children with developmental and behavioral disorders (n=113) in regard to the time of watching TV/video games per day.

Results children who watched TV/playing games over 2 hours/day had significantly ADHD and higher total CBCL score than the children who watched TV/playing games less than 2 hours/day. The two groups also differed on the following CBCL subscales: withdrawn, attention, aggressive and delinquent behavior. In terms of learning abilities and IQ levels were not differed from the children who watched TV/playing games less than 2 hours/day.

Conclusions 1/3 of children in UAE viewed TV/video games for more than the recommended 2 hours per day which found to be associated more with behavioral problems.