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The overlap and co-occurrence of neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders in children with mild intellectual disability: A UK study

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Background: Neurodevelopmental disorders, such as Intellectual Disabilities (ID), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and tic disorder, are a group of conditions with onset in the developmental period, which are characterized by a range of deficits with or without impairments. This may vary from limited to global impairment affecting various components.

Aim: Is to detect prevalence of psychiatric and neurodevelopmental disorders, mainly Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in mild Intellectually Disabled (ID) children in community pediatric settings.

Methods: Data was analyzed for 69 children, 4-11 years, (54 males and 15 females), who were recruited for the Study of Learning Ability, Development and Genes (SLADG). They had an IQ below 70 but above 50, no genetic syndromes and no known cause for ID. The parents were given four questionnaires to complete: (1) The developmental behavior checklist, the strength and difficulties questionnaire, the social communication questionnaire and the children's communication checklist. (2) The teachers were given two questionnaires, the teacher version of SDQ and DBC-24. Each family had further assessments using DAWBA and ADI-R. Each child had an ADOS assessment. The final diagnosis was reached by clinical consensus, (gold standard).

Results: ADHD was diagnosed in 30% of the sample followed by ASD 28% and 6% were diagnosed with both. 55% have ADHD and ODD/CD and anxiety disorder was diagnosed in 11.6%.

Conclusion: The questionnaires used are not sensitive enough to detect or differentiate between any of the NDDS. ADHD is the commonest neurodevelopmental diagnosis among children with mild ID. There is an urgent need for robust new screening tools post DSM 5 and ICD 11.

Biography

Amani Hassan is a Child Consultant and Adolescent Learning Disability Psychiatrist in South Wales since 2012. She is also the Chair C and A Faculty for Royal College of Psychiatrists in Wales, an honorary Academic Associate and Researcher at Cardiff University and the Training Program Director for CAMHS, Wales Deanery. Previously she has worked as Child Consultant and Adolescent Psychiatrist between 2010-2012 with Cwm Taf University Health Board and was an honorary QNIC Lead Reviewer for The Royal College of Psychiatrists between 2010-2011. She has gained other Postgraduate qualifications following her MBBS in 1989. She has a Diploma in Psychological Medicine, Cardiff University, MSc in Medical Law (LLM), Cardiff University and MSc in Clinical Neuropsychiatry, Birmingham University. She became a Fellow of The Royal College of Psychiatrists in 2017. Her interests are research, publication and teaching. She is a Member of IASSID and CAIDPN.

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