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Universal care pathway for early detection and early intervention in children with special needs

Introduction: Global burden of Emotional/Educational, Behavioral and Developmental [EBD] problems like Dyslexia, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are said to be in the order of 1 in 4 to 1 in 5 children (prevalence rate)¹. 75% of all such children present in Primary Care Setting and accounts for 50% of all Pediatric consultations. Despite being in the privileged gatekeeping position, Primary Care Physicians were found to be only less than 20% efficient in identifying such problems¹.

Objectives: Proposing a model of combination of (1) effective Early Interventional Tools for children with special needs and (2) an Universal Care Pathway for them, which works wonders.

Methods: Combining (1) (a) Prechtle's Methods for General Movements Assessments (GMA) for accurate (98%) Early Detection (ED) for Cerebral Palsy (CP) in At-Risk Population, (b) LEAP-CP Study looking at parent delivered Early Intervention (EI) delivered to infants screened positive for CP using GMA (c) use of Measurable Eye Tracking in Infancy, (d) Infant Start, a Parent-Implemented Intervention for Symptomatic Infants for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and (e) PACT Study, UK

archiving evidence of success for ASD treatment through parent training, we can identify risks of most neuro-developmental disorders in early infancy, thereby instituting a novel method of interventions based on available science, which is emerging as a clinically highly effective intervention. This enables us to propose an Universal Care Pathway for such children, which is both novel as well as steeped in Evidence Base to be extremely effective.

Speaker Biography

Anjan Bhattacharya has worked in Newham University Hospital and Newham Primary Care Trust, London as a Developmental Paediatrician. He worked for 12 years in the UK in Paediatrics. He has skills in assessing children's mental development using Griffiths tool and Bayley III Scale for Infants and Toddlers. He uses the Gold Standard diagnostic evaluation of children with Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule [ADOS] and Autism Diagnostic Interview - Revised [ADI - R] technique. He is an RCPCH, UK examiner for MRCPCH UK and DCH, UK examinations. He is also an honorary affiliate tutor and course coordinator of DCH/IPPC of Sydney University Australia. He is ex-head DNB program of AGH, Kolkata and DNB center appraiser of NBE, New Delhi. He worked as an international medical expert in a medicolegal case involving childhood disability in Singapore. He is an office bearer of two chapters of Indian Academy of Pediatrics, nationally.

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