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Association Between Body Posture and Fine Motor Development in At-Risk Infants

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Statement of the Problem: The at-risk infant is defined as an infant with a history of negative environmental and biological factors, and these factors can cause neuromotor developmental problems. These infants may have neurodevelopmental disorders and cerebral palsy, including motor problems, sensory problems, incoordination in movement, cognitive impairment, attention deficits, or developmental problems. Body posture emerges because of appropriate sensory and motor development. Postural control provides mobile stability for movements of the head, eyes, and extremities. Infants with the postural disorder may have difficulties in stabilizing their bodies during movement. This study aims to investigate the relationship between fine motor development and body posture in at-risk infants.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Fifty-three at-risk infants were included in the study. The fine motor functions of infants were evaluated with Peabody Developmental Motor Scales (PDMS-2), and the body posture was evaluated with Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination (HINE). Posture assessment included head, trunk, arms, hands, legs,

and feet posture in sitting, standing, and supine position.

Findings: The mean gestational age of infants was 33.59 ± 0.90 weeks and the mean corrected age was 9.90 ± 2.51 weeks (Table1). In the statistical analysis, a correlation was found between the fine motor quotient (FMQ) score of PDMS-2 and the HINE posture score (Table2).

Conclusion & Significance: According to the findings, there is a relationship between fine motor scores and posture in at-risk infants. Both the proximal body alignment and stabilization may affect fine motor findings. These results should be considered in the evaluation and treatment of at-risk infants.

Speaker Biography

Seda Nur Kemer has her expertise in evaluation and passion in improving the pediatric rehabilitation in physiotherapy area. She has built her experience in years of masters and doctorate degree both in hospital and education institutions. She has been going on studies conducted at Ondokuz Mayıs University and Hacettepe University in Turkey.

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