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Associations between Gross Motor and Fine Motor Development in At-Risk Infants

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Statement of the Problem: Among the most frequently occurring problems encountered by neurodevelopmental at-risk infants are impaired gross and fine motor skills. Impairments in fine motor skills may hamper various aspects of daily functioning such as getting dressed, lacing shoes, eating, and writing in early childhood and school life. The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between gross motor and fine motor development 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 (PMDS-2), and the gross motor functions were evaluated with PMDS-2, Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination (HINE), and Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS).

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

Conclusion & Significance: According the findings, there was a high positive correlation between GMQ and FMQ, and a moderately statistically significant positive correlation between FMQ and AIMS and HINE. Both should be considered in the evaluation and treatment of at-risk infants.

Speaker Biography

Nilay Comuk Balci has her expertise in evaluation and physiotherapy of high risk infants. She has built her experiencel after years in research, evaluation, teaching and administration both in hospital and education institutions like Hacettepe University, Baskent University and Ondokuz Mayis University in Turkey .

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