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Cognitive ability assessment in children with Benign Childhood Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes (BECTS)

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Epilepsy is one of the most emotionally-related chronic diseases, due to the onset occurs frequently during the age of development and for typical clinical manifestations. The 12-14% of the infant population with the epileptic syndrome has comorbid symptoms of anxiety and depression with an impact on all people small patient surround, but also for hard impact on his cognitive functions. A cognitive assessment at the pathology onset and its clinical course monitoring could detect an alteration of functional cognitive ability and reduce its negative effects. We compared cognitive functions through the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-Fourth edition of a group of children between 6 and 15 age with epilepsy BECTS (Benign partial epilepsy childhood with centrotemporal spikes or Rolandica), a specific benign form that affects between 8% and 20% of entire childhood epilepsies, with a control group selected from the normative sample. Patients reported significantly lower scores of QI total compared with age-matched controls and the specific

cognitive performances were lower in specific domino areas. At the onset of the disease, the neuropsychological assessment in children with epilepsy diagnosis, can detect a specific cognitive impairment since its first manifestations (weakness point), but also the child's individual strengths, where action is urgently needed, planning individual customized projects for the type of deficit detected. In addition, provide support to any psychoeducational programs to manage in its context a chronic disease that too often has devastating effects on the quality of life for the entire family. A multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of epilepsy by neurologists, radiologists, psychologists, and therapists are desirable to implement prevention, support and intervention projects. Psychological assessment of epilepsy can exclude any intervening factors with impact on cognitive abilities in patients affected by this pathology.

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