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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ASSESSMENT OF BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS OF AGE 6-12 YEARS ATTENDING THE PEDIATRIC OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT

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ABSTRACT

Background: Some psychiatric disorder has been started during childhood. Often they have long duration of illness and if not treated it affect children's ability in achievement of school, developing relationship in society and family and lead to significant impairment in personal life. Assessment of psychiatric behavior and treat co morbid psychological condition may lead to improved functioning and prevent chronology.

Aims

- Assessment of Psychiatry behaviour in pediatric patients of 6-12 years age.
- Early recognition and prevention of impairment in social-occupational and interpersonal life of their future.

Material and Methods: Study was carried out in C.U. Shah medical college and Hospital Surendranagar. The participants were the pediatric patients who were attending the pediatric OPD. Study was carried out in 2 month. The guardian of the patients were explained about the study, consent was taken and then information gathered regarding behavior from guardian. The patients were detailed evaluate for behavior and mental status examination was done. The diagnostic criteria of DSM-5 was used for clinically assess the behavior problem. **Results:** Study included 50 patients of which 30 were male children and 20 were female children. The age of participants was 6-12yrs. The behavior problem was found to be 36%. Male children were found to have learning disability, school refusal, headache, ADHD, mood disorder (Bipolar disorder), intellectual disability. Female children were found to have conversion disorder, intellectual disability, schizophrenia, depression, Obsessive and compulsion spectrum disorder, school refusal. **Conclusion:** As early assessment of psychiatric problem and behaviour prevent chronology of disorder, and provide appropriate treatment through psycho-educating the parents about illness and it's prevention.

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INTRODUCTION

At the age of 6-12yrs, children have started going to school, making friends and interacting in social function. During this period any behavior changes have been noticed mainly by teachers rather than family member. Parents generally failed to identify behavior problem in their children before they started going to school and even if parents have noticed any behavior problem, they used to go to pediatric doctor for consultation rather than a psychiatrist. School refusal is major problem in the children between six to twelve years of age. Children refused to go to the school and/or have persistent difficulty to remain in class for the entire school day.

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Prevalence rate of school refusal is around 5% (Cándido *et al.*, 2015). Children also had frequent complains of headache. Children and adolescents with chronic daily headaches (CDH) often have comorbid psychological conditions. Children may have higher rates of disorders such as anxiety and depression (Hope, 2016). One of the common reason for school failure is learning disorder. Learning disorder affect at least 1 in 10 schoolchildren. In children with learning disorder have difficulty in understanding and following instructions, also have difficulty in reading, spelling, writing, and/or mathematic skills (The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2013). Attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) appear at the age of seven years (Synopsis of Psychiatry). ADHD characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, irritability and impulsivity.

Prevalence of ADHD is 7-8 % (Melinda Smith, 2018). Intellectual Disability is defined by an IQ under 70 and deficits in two or more adaptive behaviors that affect every day. IDD found in 2-3% of the general population (American Psychiatric Association, 2000; Patterson, 2003; American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Obsession and compulsion spectrum disorder: The most common age of onset is in young adult. Typically between 9 and 13 year. Trichotillomania is a body-focused repetitive behaviour classified as an impulse control disorder (along the lines of pyromania, kleptomania, and pathologic gambling) which involves pulling out one's hair. It has onset in young adult between 9 and 13 years. The most common sites are the scalp, eyebrows, and eyelids. Trichotillomania occur more frequently in females (Chamberlain *et al.*, 2007). Conversion Disorder is an illness of symptoms that affect voluntary motor or sensory symptoms which suggest another medical condition, but that is judged to be caused by psychological factors because the illness is preceded by conflicts or other stressors (Synopsis of psychiatry). Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse can be a contributing cause of conversion disorder in both adults and children. The gender ratio is closer to 1:1 (Bhatia *et al.*, 2005). Schizophrenia is psychotic spectrum illness. Prior to age of 13 years, it is referred to as very early-onset schizophrenia, childhood-onset schizophrenia. It carries a poor prognosis. It is rare, with an incidence lower than 1 in 10,000 children (Jonathan *et al.*, 2014; Abidi, 2013).

Mood Disorder: Depressive disorders in children represent significant public health concern, result in long term adverse effects on the individual's cognitive, social and psychological development. Depressive disorder affects 2-3% of children. Early onset bipolar disorder is rare in children (Synopsis of Psychiatry Chapter 31.12).

Aims and Objective

- Assessment of Psychiatry behavior in pediatric patients of 6-12 years age.
- Early recognition and prevention of impairment in social-occupational and interpersonal life of their future.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study setting:

- Study was carried out in C.U.Shah medical college and hospital, Surendranagar, Gujarat. 50 patients were recruited from the pediatric out patient department.

Inclusion criteria:

- Patient age of 6-12 years in Pediatric OPD.
- Provided informed consent to guardian.

Exclusion criteria

Those who

- Has age less than 5 years.
- Had an organic psychiatry disorder.
- Were experiencing unstable general medical condition.
- Were grossly psychotic and unable to cooperate.

50 patients of age between 6 to 12 years were assessed randomly from the pediatric outpatient department.

Written informed consent was obtained from the guardian after the discussion of study details. A demographic and clinical data sheet was fulfilled. The subjects were assessed clinically by sign and symptoms of DSM-5 criteria. Children were assessed clinically for various conditions like school refusal, learning disorder, ADHD, IDD, Trichotillomania, Psychotic spectrum illness, mood disorder, headache etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Present study included total 50 children. Group comprised predominantly male children. (n=30). Out of 50 children 32 were normal and had no any psychiatric problems. 18 (36%) children had some psychiatric problem.

| Distribution | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Disorder | 10 (20%) | 8 (16%) | 18 (36%) |
| Normal | 20 (40%) | 12 (24%) | 32 (64%) |
| Total | 30 (60%) | 20 (40%) | 50 (100%) |

Table 2. % of disorder in male child

| Sr.NO | Disorder | No. of Male children affected | % |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | School phobia | 2 | (6.6%) |
| 2 | Intellectual disorder | 1 | (3.3%) |
| 3 | Learning disorder | 3 | (10%) |
| 4 | ADHD | 1 | (3.3%) |
| 5 | Headache | 2 | (6.6%) |
| 6 | Bipolar-I disorder | 1 | (3.3%) |

Table 3. % of disorder in female

| Sr.No | Disorder | No. of female children affected | No. of % (n=20) |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Conversion disorder | 2 | 10% |
| 2 | ID | 2 | 10% |
| 3 | Schizophrenia | 1 | 5% |
| 4 | Depression | 1 | 5% |
| 5 | Trichotillomania | 1 | 5% |
| 6 | School phobia | 1 | 5% |

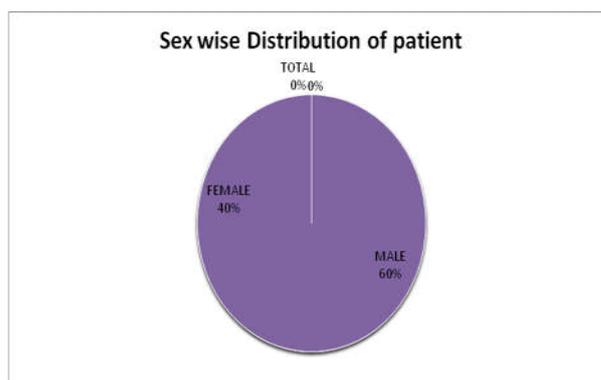


Figure 1. Sex wise distribution of patient

Behavior problems found more in male children (20%). 16% female children had behavior problem. In this present study out of 18 pediatric patients who had psychiatric behavior problem, 4 pediatric patients (22.2%) had school refusal, 3 patients (16.67%) had Intellectual disability disorder, 3 patients (16.67%) had Learning disability, 1 patient (5.56%) had Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, 1 patient (5.56%) had trichotillomania, 2 patients (11.11%) had mood disorder, 1 patient (5.56%) had childhood onset schizophrenia, 1 patient (5.56%) had tension type headache and 2 patients (11.11%) had conversion disorder.

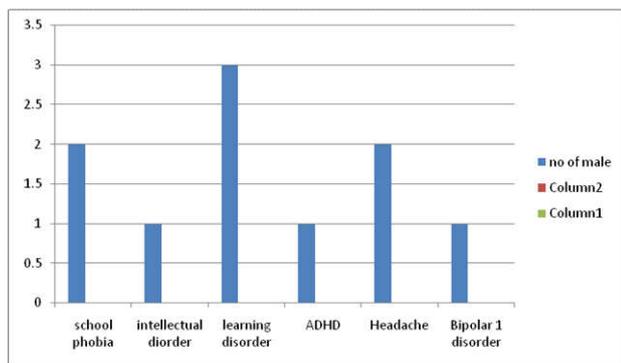


Chart 1. %of disorder in male children

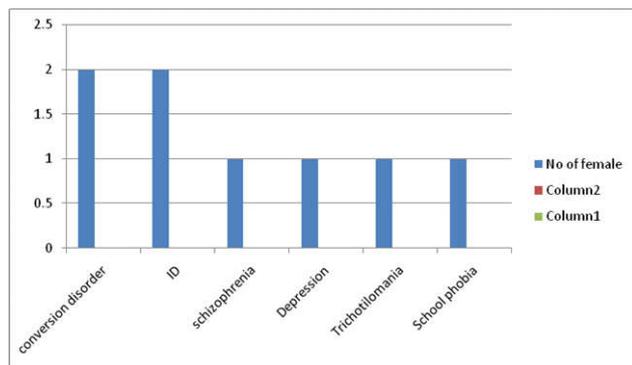


Chart 2. %disorder in female child

In this study, 11.6% of pediatric patient had school refusal. This is close to other study of Kearney and Beasley (1994) performed a study on the prevalence of school refusal between 5 and 17 years as a function of the age of youths with school refusal. Their results showed the highest rate of school refusal occurred between 7 and 9 years, representing 31.5%, whereas the lowest rates were between 5 and 6 years (11.2%) and between 16 and 17 years (15.2%) (Cándido *et al.*, 2015; Dirks *et al.*, 2008).

Memisevic H, Sinanovic study found 11.6% children of 6-12 years had ID which is more in male child (Memisevic *et al.*, 2013). In this study, 13.3% of pediatric patient had intellectual disability. This is close to other Analysis of parent-reported data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) 2011–2013 found the following (Pastor *et al.* 2015):9.5%of children ages6-11. Other studies like Patterson MC, Zoghbi HY, American Psychiatric Association, and Abidi also showed similar kind of results (Patterson, 2003; American Psychiatric Association, 2013; Abidi, 2013). In this study we found male had more psychiatric behaviour problem than female. 50 pediatric patients were included in this study. Out of 50 patients, 18 had disorder and 32 had no any behaviour problem. In 50 pediatric patients, 18 males had psychiatric disorder. Association between gender and psychiatric disorder was not found significant. In 50 pediatric patients, 8 female children had disorder. Association between gender and psychiatric behaviour was not found significant.

Limitation

- As the information collection was done via self and guardian reporting, it raise possibility of underestimating the other information regarding illness.

- It was not possible to maintain follow-up for psycho education regarding disease to child and parents due to educational schedule of children.

Conclusion

- By assessing the psychiatric behavior problem in pediatric patients age between 6-12 years, found to have learning disability, Intellectual disability, School refusal, ADHD, Conversion disorder.
- A very few case of psychotic and mood disorder were found
- As early assessment of psychiatric problem and behaviour prevent chronology of disorder, and provide appropriate treatment through psycho-educating the parents about illness and it's prevention.

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