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Congenital heart disease and impact on child development

Veronique Diane and **Noah Mvongo** University of Douala, Cameroon

Objectives: To evaluate the child development and evaluate a possible association with the commitment by bio-psychosocial factors of children with congenital heart disease and those without the infection.

Methods: This research is an observational case-control study comparing the development of children with and without heart disease, categorized in three groups. Group 1(G1): children 0-10years of age both male and female genders with congenital heart disease awaiting surgery; Group 2 (G2): children of age 0-10years of both genders who have undergone at least one surgical procedure for congenital heart disease correction between 6 months and 1 year before the application of the instruments of this study; Group 3 (G3): Children 0-10 years, healthy and both genders. As instruments, we used a bio-psychosocial data questionnaire that includes social, demographic, psychological and clinical factors, and a development screen test divided into four fields of functions i.e. personal-social, fine-motor-adaptive, language and gross motor.

Results: Ninety six children were evaluated, 19 (22.66%) belonging to the G1 (preoperative children with heart disease), 32 (33.59%) in Group 2 (postoperative children with heart disease) and 45 (43.75%) in G3 (healthy children). Of the total, 55.56% are girls and age ranged from 2 months to 10 years. The children with heart disease had more suspicious and abnormal ratings and in the group of healthy children 53.6% were considered with normal development ($P \le 0.0001$). The biopsychosocial variables that were related to a possible developmental delay were gender (P = 0.042), child's age (P = 0.001) and income per capita (P = 0.019).

Conclusion: The results suggest that children with congenital heart disease are likely to have a developmental delay with significant difference between children who have undergone surgery and those awaiting surgery under clinical follow-up.

Biography

Veronique Diane has completed her Doctor of Medicine degree from the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Douala. She is currently working as a General Medical Practitioner at the Limber Regional Hospital in Limbe, Cameroon. She intends to be a Cardiac Specialist in the future and has been researching on Cardiac Medicines both at the University of Douala and at the Cardiac Centre of St. Elizabeth Catholic General Hospital Shisong, Cameroon.

noahv88@yahoo.com

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