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Prevalence of neurodevelopmental, behavioral and learning disorders in pediatric primary care

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Objectives: To determine the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in primary care pediatrics in Atlantic Galicia.

Methods: An observational, descriptive, cross-sectional prevalence study was carried out in 9 outpatient clinics in A Coruña and Pontevedra; Spain, with a population of 8293 children between September and November 2015. A total of 1286 randomly selected patients from 0 to 14 years of age were included. From the medical history was registered: age, sex, psychiatric diagnosis established by DSM-IV-TR criteria in its five axes, professionals who participated in the diagnosis and treatment of the process and what type of treatment was received. Authorization was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee of Galicia number 2015/427.

Results: 148 of 1286 patients presented psychiatric pathology (11.5% IC 95% 9.73-13.29), 68% male. Between 0 and 5 years, the prevalence was 4.5%; between 6 y and 10 y, 18.5% and between 11 y and 14 y 22%. Symptoms lasted a median of 25 months. The most frequent pathologies in 1286 patients were ADHD (5.36%), language disorders (3.42%), learning disorders (3.26%), anxiety-depressive disorders (2.4%) and behavior disorders (1.87%). Of the 148 cases, 47% had comorbidity with another mental disorder. Most of them required attention by multiple social, health and educational professionals; 33% received psychopharmacological treatment.

Conclusions: The prevalence of psychiatric disorders in pediatric primary care is frequent, chronic and complex, increases with age and requires many health, educational and social resources.

Recent Publications

- 1. K R Merikangas, J P He, M Burstein, S A Swanson, S Avenevoli and L Cui (2010) Lifetime prevalence of mental disorders in US adolescents: results from de national comorbidity survey replication adolescent supplement. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 49:980-989.
- 2. M G Sawyer, F M Arney, P A Baghurst, J J Clark, B W Graetz and R J Kosky (2001) The mental health of young people in Australia: Key findings from the child and adolescent component of the national survey of mental health and well-being. Aust N Z J Psychiatry 35:806-814.
- 3. J Costello, H Egger and A Angold (2005) 10-year research update review: The epidemiology of child and adolescent psychiatric disorders. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 44:972-986.
- 4. C B Brauner and C B Stephens (2006) Estimating the prevalence of early childhood serious emotional/behavioral disorders: challenges and recommendations. Public Health Rep. 121:303-310.

Biography

Marta Carballal Mariño has her expertise in Primary Care Pediatrics in A Coruña, Spain. Psychiatric Workshop of the Primary Care Pediatrics Galician Association (AGAPap) in Spain has the aim to improve knowledge about these disorders and to give primary care pediatricians skills in diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, and in this group is formed by two psychiatrics and nine primary care pediatricians. This study was presented as an oral communication at the 67th Congress of the Sociedad Galega de Pediatría, November 12, 2016, Santiago de Compostela, Spain. It was also presented as an oral communication at the 65th Congress of the Asociación Española de Pediatría, June 1-3, 2017, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and awarded the prize to the best oral communication of the AEPap. Another relationated publication this year has been: Ageitos AG, Maseda MJD, Villaverde AB, González BP and Mariño MC. Attention Deficit Disorder with Developmental Coordination Disorder: A Subgroup of Clinical and Therapeutic Importance. SM J Schizophr Res. 2018; 1(1): 1004.

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