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Bayley-III socio-emotional and adaptive behaviour scales in preterm children

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Background: Although preterm infant's cognitive, linguistic and motor impairments have been studied; there is a lack of evidence regarding the socio-emotional and adaptive behaviour costs during the first and third year of life.

Aim: To evaluate the impact of preterm birth at socio-emotional and adaptive behaviour scales of the Bayley scales of infant and toddler development, third edition (Bayley-III) on preterm infants.

Methods: Children born <34 weeks' gestation completed the Bayley-III. 14 children with a mean age of 22.84 (+/- 5.87) months completed the socio-emotional scale. To assess adaptive functioning, 14 children of 19.09 (+/- 8.52) months old on average were assessed with the adaptive behaviour scale. A case control study was conducted in very preterm infants (<32 GA).

Results: Infant mean general adaptive composite (GAC) scale was 96.86 (SD=16.45). Within this subtest, social area had a mean score of 102.79 (SD=-3.6). Conceptual and practical areas have a mean of 94.36 (SD=21.5) and 95.57 (SD=18.0) respectively. The mean composite score of the socio-emotional scale was 103.63 (SD=5.68). An under performance in GAC was observed in the 21.4% (3/14) of the infants. Within this, the practical scale showed the lowest scores with 28.6% of the sample under the normal range. In the socio-emotional scale, 18.2% (2/11) of the children showed lower scores compared to the standardized sample. No significant differences in the scores were observed among children younger than 32 weeks of gestation compared to older infants.

Conclusions: In spite of the small sample size, a trend to low levels scores in socio-emotional and general adaptive composite areas were seen. They did not reach significant values, most likely due to the low statistical power related to the small number of cases studied. Further studies are suggested in order to design appropriate therapeutic strategies to address this problem.

Biography

Rosenberg-Pacareu Javiera has completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in 2017. She recently completed a Multivariate Analysis Postgraduate Diploma at Universidad de Chile and is currently researching at the Medical School of Catholic University and at Clínica Las Condes. She is the Chief of Preterm Infants Follow-up Program in Clínica Las Condes, Santiago de Chile. Along with that, she is the Chief Project Manager of Fundación Crece Sano, a non-profit organization aimed to improve the children's development and wellbeing through training opportunities for health professionals and educators working at remote locations of the country.

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