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Program Abstracts

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From the Editors:

The abstracts in this special supplement to the Infant Mental Health Journal (IMHJ) are organized to match the Program Book distributed at the 15th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. Abstracts were copy edited at the IMHJ Editorial office. Where abstract language seemed confusing, the copy editors attempted to capture the spirit of the written text to make it more readable to the audience. Errors that may have occurred are the responsibility of the copy editors, not the authors. Where abstracts are not presented, they were not supplied.

disorder characterized by the compulsive urge to pull out hair. Pica and trichotillomania are uncommon comorbidities, yet the research literature involving pediatric samples is particularly sparse.

Aim: In this case report we discuss close relationship between pica and maternal deprivation, the effect of trichotillomania comorbidities over the treatment process.

Case: 23 months old female child was brought to the outpatient clinic with decline in speech and eating hair complaints. Decline in speech had began 18-month old. She had lived with her grandmother for 40 days long before these complaints started. She started eating hair at 8 months of age. She was plucking and eating the feathers of the floor carpet and the sweater, the hair of her sister, and the rope of clothes. It was talked with her mother about the prevention of physical access to the material the child ate, explained that television should be restricted and the stimulants should be increased, preoccupation with play materials the other children can also join. There was regression of her symptoms after 1.5 months.

Conclusion: Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain pica and trichotillomania. Management of trichotillomania and pica involves psychoeducation, behavior therapy and teaching adaptive coping skills. Further research is needed to explore how the relationship between trichotillomania, pica and trichophagia may affect treatment outcome.

P371 Perceived maternal symptomatology and its influence on newborn's motor development. Study on non-clinical mother-infant (1-11 months) dyads

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Introduction: Newborn's first approach to the world takes place in the relationship with his/her mother. He/she builds his/her-own experiences from mother's repertoire of facial expressions, voices, gestures. Contemporarily, the process of becoming mother entails a wide range of changes, which may lead to psychopathology conditions, among which post-partum depression is the most common. This disease is known to negatively influence maternal abilities and produce feelings of greater struggle in caring the infant, sense of guilty and poor self-efficacy. Motor development represents the principal field of observation in helping to infer infant's needs, feelings and intentions. Its investigation may be a powerful means to understand the influence of maternal attitudes (e.g. depressive-symptoms) on infant motor-development.

Aims of the study: The main aim of this research was to investigate the characteristics of motor-development in infants aged 1-11 months, and if/how maternal depressive-symptomatology may influence infant's motor-development during his/her first year of life.

Material&Methods: Data were collected within the wider Italian-validation-project of the Peabody Developmental Motor Scale-II (PDMS-2). Participants included 123 infants (1-11 months old) with their mothers. Infants were tested with PDMS-2 and mothers' symptomatology was screened with SCL-90-TR and CES-D. All dyads belong to non-clinical population. We calculated correlational- and regression-analysis between PDMS-2, SCL-90 and CES-D.

Results: The best predictor of infants' motor-performance is the age in months. Perceived maternal *somatization* negatively predicted infants' *Fine-Motor*-scores. On the contrary, positive correlations were found between depressive perceived symptoms, *Interpersonal Sensitivity*, *Hostility and Paranoid Ideation* and infants *Gross-Motor* abilities, especially *Locomotion*.

Conclusions: Results suggest that mother's perceived symptoms influence the ability of the infant to move through the space, while perceived levels of *somatization* negatively predict his/her fine-motor development. Age-in-months is the most accurate predictor of motor-performance. Further

analyses are needed to better understand relationship between maternal-symptomatology and infant motor-skills.

P372 Perinatal factors associated with autism spectrum disorder in a Hispanic community sample

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Introduction: Growing research demonstrates that perinatal medical conditions, environmental factors, maternal characteristics, and labor complications can increase the risk of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in children. Such factors include older maternal age, heavy perinatal alcohol consumption (Larsson et al., 2004), younger gestational age of infant (Gillberg & Cederlund, 2005), and cesarean delivery (Glasson et al., 2004).

Aims of the study: Although some research suggests there are no significant ethnic differences in the rates of ASD, there is a paucity of larger, comprehensive studies that incorporate a multitude of risk factors specific to different ethnicities. This study attempts to uncover risk factors for at a Hispanic sample.

Material and methods: As part of a multi-site study on the creation of a new developmental screener, the following descriptive data was collected on a Hispanic community sample. Mothers (N=201) of toddler twins (N=402) completed a perinatal questionnaire and developmental measures such as the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT). The perinatal questionnaire included a detailed summary of maternal characteristics, pregnancy, labor/delivery, and postpartum period with the twins. The M-CHAT was used for its reliability in predicting autism risk in children as young as 24 months with higher scores (fail rates) indicating a higher risk for ASD (Pandey et al., 2008; Robins, Fein, Barton, & Green, 2001).

Results: The following perinatal factors were associated with higher fail rates on the M-CHAT: maternal characteristics (e.g. age of mother), infant gestational age, and obstetric complications.

Conclusions: These results confirm previous findings that suggest the aforementioned factors are associated with ASD in a community sample and suggest that Hispanic ethnicity is no exception to these risks. Results also confirm that the M-CHAT is a valid predictor of ASD in Hispanic children. Future analysis will compare our Hispanic sample with data collection from a current Caucasian sample.

P373 Gifted children: what do they suffer from?

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Today, it is generally accepted that children with high intellectual potential are more vulnerable to develop anxiety and mood disorders, as well as more frequent associated disorders such as specific learning disabilities. This retrospective study will focus on all the gifted children without autistic disorder followed in the child psychiatry unit of Bichat hospital in Paris. The sample will include around thirty patients. This descriptive study will estimate the prevalence of gifted children in the unit, sociodemographic characteristics of this population, the siblings' position, the reason for consultation, the diagnostic delay, the age at diagnosis, the associated diagnosis (ADHD, dyspraxia, enuresis, encopresis,..), the presence or absence of emotional disorders, the difficulties of schooling, etc. The aim of this work is to better understand the reasons why parents of gifted children go to consultation. And so, to determine which are the symptoms that can lead to the diagnosis of intellectual precocity.