Is Bacterial Meningitis a Risk Factor for Developing Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION:
Bacterial meningitis is a severe disease with high morbidity. Many medical conditions are known to be associated with meningitis including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The goal of the present study was to examine the frequency of ADHD in children who had had bacterial meningitis. An additional goal was to assess the odds ratio for ADHD in children who had had meningitis and children who had not had it.

METHODS:
The sample comprised 60 children who had had meningitis in the first year of their lives and 60 control children who had not had the disease. ADHD was assessed through the structural clinical interviews with parents according to the criteria set in DSM-IV.

RESULTS:
The total frequency of ADHD in children who had had meningitis was 62%, as compared to 5% in children who had not had the disease. The odds ratio for developing ADHD was 30.5 (95% CI = 8.5 to 109) in favor of children in the meningitis group.

CONCLUSION:
Meningitis is a significant risk factor for developing ADHD later in childhood. Children who had meningitis need to be monitored for timely detecting and treating ADHD symptoms.