

Natureza do trabalho: Resumo

TÍTULO

POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE EPILEPSY AND ADHD – A LITERATURE REVIEW

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RESUMO

Introduction: Several studies try to explain the coexistence or apparent association between Attention Deficit Disorder and Hyperactivity (ADHD) with epilepsy. The prevalence of ADHD is approximately 3 to 7% in school children and 20 to 40% if it is associated with epilepsy. Epidemiological studies have shown that children with epilepsy have more behavioral and attention problems than healthy children. Research also reported that epilepsy in children with ADHD is more severe and has a prevalence of 2%, and in the general population without ADHD the rate drops to 1%. **Objectives:** Identify associations between ADHD and epilepsy in children and adolescents described in literature. **Materials and Methods:** We conducted a search in MedLine and Lilacs with the descriptors "ADHD" and "epilepsy" of the last 6 years. **Results:** A Unicamp cross-sectional study interviewed 60 patients with previous diagnosis of idiopathic epilepsy received in the last five years ($M = 4.7 \pm 2.2$), aged 6-16 years ($M = 6.42 \pm 2.5$). The study applied the questionnaire SNAP IV, which has detected 8 patients (13.3%) with symptoms of ADHD, and 7 of them were girls. In another study in Taiwan, case-control, were recruited 61 patients with epilepsy, 6-16 years ($M = 9.79 \pm 2.49$), and 122 children without epilepsy as controls. Cases with epilepsy began on average of 6.8 years. Also used the SNAP-IV to identify probable cases of ADHD, and the rate was 24.6% among cases and 0% among controls. More severe symptoms of inattention have been reported when the onset of epilepsy was earlier. Davis et al in Minnesota used a population-based cohort of children ($N = 358$) and without ADHD ($N = 728$) by withdrawal of patient records data up to 20 years old. Of the 1086 cases and controls, 23 cases of ADHD and 32 controls had a history of seizures. The cases with ADHD were 2.7 times more likely to have epilepsy than controls ($p = 0.066$), and have an earlier onset of seizures ($p = 0.020$) and tendency towards more frequent seizures. **Discussion and Conclusion:** There is a reciprocal relationship between ADHD and epilepsy, because of the reports of patients with these diagnoses and who also have symptoms of the other disease. Studies have shown that epileptic patients with ADHD symptoms are most often girls, and epileptic patients without symptoms of ADHD are usually boys. It has been found in several studies that there is a lower probability of diagnosis and treatment for ADHD in patients with epilepsy than those who don't have it. This reflects a reluctance to diagnose and treat symptoms of attention deficit / hyperactivity in children with epilepsy. However, clinical guidelines support the use of stimulant drugs for children with both epilepsy and ADHD. It should be encouraged the recognition and treatment of ADHD, because its failure could lead to future problems throughout the patient's life.

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