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83 – Cognitive functioning of children with newly diagnosed diabetes 1 type, preliminary report

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Introduction: Childhood diabetes is an important health problem because an illness may affect cognitive and emotional functioning and can be a reason of the school problems. The aim of the study was to estimate differences in cognitive functioning, intelligence in children and adolescents with newly diagnosed diabetes and obesity.

Method: The method was The Scale WISC-R and neuropsychological set of tests, which measures attention, visumotor integration, immediate memory. Twenty persons in an age group of 8–18 years, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in the last 3 months participated in investigations. The mean of age was 12.2. Children with obesity (over 90 percentile) participated in the study as the reference group.

Results: The results were important on the level 0.05. The level of intelligence were similar in both groups. The lower results in tests of visumotor integration and visuospatial functions were stated in the group with diabetes. The higher results in tests of knowledge and social skills were stated in the group with diabetes in comparison to obese children. There was no differences in tests of vocabulary and knowledge.

Conclusions: Even newly diagnosed diabetes may be a risk factor disturbing some of the cognitive functions and children should participate in neuropsychological evaluation systematically, which may make some difficulties in creating motives for health behaviours.