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A multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of children and adolescents with Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome

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Introduction: Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome (BWS) is a rare and complex congenital disorder characterized by a spectrum of symptoms and somatic findings. The prevalence of classic BWS is 1:26,000 births in Europe, and is equal in both sexes. The causes of the disorder are complex and are related to alterations in the expression of one or more genes in the region of chromosome 11. The heterogeneity of the clinical picture results in a spectrum of clinical features, the most common of which include: excessive growth of one side or certain parts of the body, macroglossia, abdominal wall deficits such as umbilical hernia, hypoglycemia, enlarged abdominal organs and an increased risk of developing certain types of tumors in adulthood.

Objectives: The aim of this article is to highlight the importance of an early multidisciplinary approach in the management of children and adolescents with BWS.

Methods: Using clinical practice and a review of the existing limited literature, we examined the complexity of the disease and the importance of psychiatric, psychotherapeutic, and psychological interventions in the treatment of children and adolescents with rare diseases such as BWS.

Results: According to our clinical practice, a number of uncertain physical symptoms and possible complications may in some children with BWS lead to psychomotor retardation and lack of self-confidence due to the often impaired physical appearance. Affected children and adolescents are more likely to be exposed to abuse at school, show more behavioral and learning difficulties, difficulties in social adjustment, and resultant emotional difficulties. After initial genetic and pediatric treatment and subsequent regular monitoring, it is necessary to pay additional attention to the development of psychological sequelae in order to involve them and their families in psychotherapeutic treatment, and intervene in a timely manner so that they can achieve or maintain psychological stability and functionality. Many adolescent patients with BWS do not have significant somatic difficulties that would require pediatric intervention, but often present with symptoms of mental illness.

Conclusions: Psychological stress in children and adolescents suffering from rare somatic diseases represents a negative experience of an emotional and social nature, which affects the course of the disease and interferes with the treatment. Due to a number of possible physical manifestations and outcomes of such diseases, extensive psychological support and care by child and adolescent psychiatrists and the entire medical team is required. A multidisciplinary approach is crucial in the treatment of these patients and results in improved functionality and quality of life.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

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ADHD symptoms are associated with bully victimization in non-clinical populations too

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Introduction: Individuals with ADHD are at higher risk of being bullied than individuals without ADHD^{1,2,3} Over the past decades, there has been a shift from a categorical to a dimensional conceptualization of ADHD^{4.} It remains unknown if the association between ADHD and bullying also extends to non-clinical populations.

Objectives: To assess if subclinical ADHD symptoms associates with bully victimization in childhood and adolescence.

Methods: 1557 non-clinical adults completed the 6-item Adult Self-Report Scale Screener (ASRS) and answered questions concerning bully victimization. ADHD and ASD diagnoses served as exclusion criteria. Prevalence rates of bully victimization (defined as bullied ≥twice monthly) were compared at different time periods between those with- and without a positive ASRS-screener (cut-off score ≥4/6) by chi-square tests. Moreover, logistic regression evaluated the association while adjusting for candidate covariates age and sex.

Results: Out of the total sample 1332 individuals (mean age=42, 60% female) scored negative and 217 individuals (mean age=36, 70% female) scored positive on the ASRS-screener while 8 had missing data on age or sex. Prevalence rates of bully victimization comparing those with- and without a positive score were as following; 20% vs 11%, p<.001 at 7-9 years, 26% vs 15%, p<.001 at 10-12 years, 20% vs 13%, p=.005 at 13-15 years and 6% vs 2%, p=.002 at 16-18 years. The statistically significant associations seen in the prevalence comparisons up until working life remained in the logistic regression models.

Conclusions: More pronounced subclinical ADHD symptoms were associated with approximately twice as high prevalence of bully victimization in childhood and adolescence. Thus, ADHD characteristics appear to have serious consequences across the full clinical and non-clinical parts of the spectrum.

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Exploring Early Autism Markers in High-Risk Infants: Implications for Timely Intervention

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Introduction: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by challenges in social