
In a study of endocrine and growth features in 32 children with craniopharyngioma, neuro-ophthalmic presenting symptoms (headache, vomiting, visual impairment) were most common. Some patients presented with signs or symptoms of endocrine disorder (polyuria, polydipsia, growth failure, precocious puberty, and obesity). The growth pattern was heterogeneous. After tumor treatment, growth hormone deficiency required hormonal therapy, but 8 grew normally without growth hormone. (Di Battista E, Naselli A, et al. J Pediatr Endocrinol Metab 2006 Apr;19 Suppl 1:431-7).

HEADACHE DISORDERS

MIGRAINE AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN PREADOLESCENT CHILDREN

Researchers at the Glia Institute, Brazil; Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY; and other centers conducted a population-based study of school performance in children in Brazil with migraine. Episodic migraine occurred in 9%, probable migraine in 17.6%, and chronic migraine in 0.6% of 5,671 children from 87 cities and 18 Brazilian states. Teachers provided information and measurements of the overall scholastic achievement for the school year. Parents were interviewed using a headache questionnaire and the Strengths and Difficulties Behavior Questionnaire. Poor performance in school was significantly more likely in children with episodic and chronic migraine, in terms of severity and duration of attacks, abnormal scores of mental health, and by nausea, headache frequency, use of analgesics, and gender. (Arruda MA, Bigal ME. Migraine and migraine subtypes in preadolescent children. Neurology 2012 Oct 30;79(18):1881-8). (Response: Dr Bigal. E-mail: marcelo_begal@merck.com).

COMMENT. Children with migraine are more likely to have below average school performance relative to children without headaches and more likely to have missed school days. These associations are correlated with the severity of pain, presence of associated symptoms, and frequency of pain. The associations are predicted by behavior and emotional symptoms.

A current study to assess cognitive functioning of Italian children with migraine without aura and those with tension-type headache finds no difference in FS IQ between the groups, but children with tension-type headache have a lower verbal IQ and a higher performance IQ than healthy controls and children with migraine. Children with migraine have lower perceptual organization than those affected by tension-type headache. (Esposito M, Pascotto A, Gallai B, et al. Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat 2012;8:509-13).