

CAUSES OF MENTAL RETARDATION

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Executive Summary

Mental Retardation (MR) occurs in 2-3% of the general population. We conducted a case control study to find out association between mental retardation and risk factors in children from the age of 3-5 years. Our methodology was to collect and compare 46 cases of mentally retarded children collected from the institute of mental retardation, Pangapara and 46 controls matched in age and sex collected from paediatrics ward, SAT.

From our study we found out that there is an association between mental retardation and the following factors like, 'Family History of mental retardation', 'age of conception', 'prenatal infection', 'Genstational hypertension', 'seizures at infancy', 'low birth weight', 'delayed cry at birth' and 'mental illness of mother'.

Based on the analysis, we can say that the following are definite risk factors for mental retardation:

1. Family history of mental retardation.
2. Seizures at infancy.
3. Gestational hypertension.
4. Delayed cry after birth.
5. History of mental illness in mother.