

FEBRILE SEIZURES AND ADULT EPILEPSY 2004

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ABSTRACT

1.1 Objective

To find out the risk factors of epilepsy, with special emphasis on febrile seizure as a risk factors, in epileptic patients reporting to the outpatient clinic of the Department of Neurology, Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram

1.2. Research Design and methods:

We designed a case control study for epileptic patients reporting to the outpatient clinic of the Department of Neurology. Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram during a 1 month period. Controls were non epileptic patients attending the same clinic, who were matched for age and sex. Data about the investigated risk factors were obtained by pre tested self administered structured questionnaire through personal interviews. Data was analyzed statistically using Odds ratio and Chi square test for significance. Multiple Logistic Regression analysis was done following a forward step wise method of elimination.

1.3. Results

The total number of participants was 52 cases and 104 controls. Risk factors such as Febrile seizures (OR= 24.52, p value= 0.000), Family history (OR= 21,56, P value= 0.000). Prematurity (OR= 13.44 p value= 0.003), Birth asphyxia (OR= 10.96, p value= 0.008) and Developmental delay (OR= 16.02, p value = 0.001) were found to have significant

association with epilepsy . But factors such as consanguinity CNS infections, Head trauma and Chronic alcoholism did not add to the risk of developing epilepsy.

Logistic regression analysis showed that prematurity (a OR= 10.525), developmental delay (aOR= 14.062), birth asphyxia (aOR= 13.655) and family history of epilepsy (aOR= 23.769) together contributed to 21.4% of the risk. Febrile seizure was eliminated from the final model probably because birth asphyxia, developmental delay, prematurity and family history are risk factors of febrile seizures as evidenced by various studies.

1.4. Conclusion

Known risk factors such as febrile seizures, family history prematurity birth asphyxia and development delay were confirmed. Preventive measures for the risk factors identified are suggested as ways of reducing the burden of epilepsy .Greater statistical power is needed to study weaker associations and interacting effects.