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Cerebral palsy in children: subtypes, motor function and associated impairments in ; addis ababa, ethiopia

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Background: Cerebral Palsy (CP) is one of the most common developmental disabilities among children seeking health care services in Ethiopia as well as in other low income countries worldwide. Yet although, there is no national population data relating to CP in Ethiopia, previous retrospective hospital study shows CP is the **commonest developmental disability** in children. The overall aim of this study is to describe the clinical subtype, gross and fine motor function and presence and pattern of associated impairments and possible risk factors in children with Cerebral Palsy CP aged 2 to 18 years, July-September 2018, in Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Methods: A hospital-based descriptive cross-sectional study conducted among 207 children with suspected motor symptoms **Cerebral Palsy**. The Surveillance of CP in Europe (SCPE) decision tree was used as a guideline to include for inclusion 174 of 174 illegible eligible children with CP. A then a pretested and pre-coded questionnaire administered to caregivers standardized questionnaire and clinical examination applied. Descriptive statistical analysis, bivariate and multivariate analysis, Chi square test, crude association and adjusted odds ratio with 95% confidence interval employed. P value <0.05 was used to declare statistical significance. Assessing socio **demographic characteristics**, associated impairments and possible risk factors; evaluated with proper neurologic examination to classify them; and severity of gross and fine motor impairment was assessed by evaluating level of function by grading according to **GMFCS and MACS**. The IBM SPSS V.21 was used for data analysis, and a significance level of 0.05 was chosen.

Conclusion: The severe forms of CP prevail; and most children are dependent on their parents for routine activities of daily living and cannot communicate well. Multidisciplinary care approach and focused functional **rehabilitation services** need to be instituted. Causal relationship cannot be drawn from this study but makes a strong argument for improving maternal and child health care.

Key Words: Cerebral Palsy; children; subtypes; impairments; motor function; Ethiopia

Biography

Dr Selamenesh Tsige is a consultant pediatrician and an assistant professor of pediatrics and child health at Addis Ababa University, College of Health sciences and current fellow under Developmental and Behavioral pediatrics at the University of Toronto, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She is founder and president of Gojo Accommodation and Temporary shelter for patients in need in Ethiopia which supports patients referred to the main tertiary hospitals from remote areas of Ethiopia. She is also communication head of the Eastern Africa Academies of childhood disability (EAACD) and EAACD representative of the GPEC (Global Partnership Education Collaboration) of the IAACD (International Alliance Academies of Childhood Disability). She is 2021 Mandela Washington Fellow in public management track.

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