

Summary

Global developmental delay is a subset of developmental disabilities defined as significant delay in two or more of the following developmental domains: gross/fine motor, speech/language, cognition, social/personal, and activities of daily living.

Accurate etiologic determination, despite the fact that many disorders have no specific therapeutic interventions, has specific implications regarding treatment, prognosis, ongoing medical management of associated conditions, assessment of recurrence risk, counseling of families if there is a risk of recurrence, and implementation of prevention programs. Determining causality also empowers the affected family in planning for their child and limits further unnecessary testing.

A comprehensive history and physical examination are undertaken and then Laboratory investigations should be selected and targeting the suspected aetiology.

In our study after finishing the history, physical examination and investigations an etiology for GDD was found in 297 (42.1%) only of 705 children. The most common etiologic groupings were: perinatal asphyxia (198 [28.1%]), post kernicterus (28 [4%]), degenerative brain diseases (15 [2.1%]), post encephalitis (12 [1.7%]), post meningitis (11[1.6%]),hydrocephalus (10 [1.4%]),congenital brain malformation (8 [1.1%]), TORCHS (4[0.6%]), metabolic diseases(4 [0.6%]), hypothyroidism (3 [0.4%]), Sturge Weber syndrome (3 [0.4%]), chromosomal anomalies (1 [0.1%]).

Environmental influences such as culture, parental skills, neglect, and opportunity may modify the causes expression as well as the detection and diagnosis of global developmental delay. Accumulating evidence also demonstrates the benefits of early intervention through a variety of programs with respect to short-term outcomes and suggests that early diagnosis of a child with global delay may improve outcome.

Initial screening is important not only in identifying children with developmental delay but also is the first step in determining whether a child has global delay, a language disorder, or an autistic spectrum disorder. This parameter is focused specifically on the child who has global developmental delay .