

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Epilepsy is commonly associated with behavioural changes and is the single largest neurological problem facing developing countries today. Children with epilepsy are almost five times more likely to have psychiatric problems than the general population.

The present study aimed at assessing the prevalence and manifestation of psychopathology in epileptic children. So, 35 children diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy. They comprised 18 males (51.4 %) and 17 females (48.6 %) with a mean age of 10.3 ± 2.9 years. In addition, there was age and sex matched control group including children who don't suffer any organic disease. The control group comprised 29 males (58.0 %) and 21 females (42.0 %) with a mean age of 10.7 ± 2.5 years. Assessment of the psychiatric morbidity in the studied groups was achieved using the Arabic translation of the Child Behavior Check List (CBCL).

According to this tool, 8 children (22.9 %) of the studied series had Child Behaviour Checklist total score \geq cut off, 7 children (20.0 %) had externalizing disorders and 12 children (34.3 %) had internalizing disorders. The epileptic children had significantly higher scores on all the sub items of CBCL. Regarding the relation of CBCL score to the demographic characteristics, we didn't find

significant association between gender and CBCL scores. On the other hand, we found that CBCL + patients had significantly higher frequency of patients belonging to the high class.

In respect to the relation of psychopathology to the disease characteristics, the present study didn't find a significant association between CBCL and age of onset and disease duration.

In addition, we didn't find any associations between psychopathological affection as measured by CBCL and type of seizure, EEG findings and control of epilepsy. However, the current study showed a statistically significant association between CBCL and seizure polytherapy. In addition, we found statistically significantly worse SHE parameters: Work and Activities, Self-Perception and Change in CBCL +v group when compared with CBCL -v group.

Conclusively, behavioral disorders constitute a major morbidity in epileptic children. They have many relations with socio-demographic and disease characteristics. Their impact on quality of life adds to the already existing problem of the original disease.