

CHRD 2024: Abstract Submission Form

Presenter Name

Vaishali Shenoy

Presenter Status

Undergraduate Students

Role in the project

Analyze Data

Write Abstract

Research Category

Clinical

Title

The role of the Early Motor Clinic in the diagnosis of developmental conditions other than Cerebral Palsy

Background

Motor delay, where infants or children don't achieve expected developmental milestones, is often associated with Cerebral Palsy (CP) but can also indicate a spectrum of other developmental conditions. In response to international recommendations for early diagnosis and intervention in CP, the Early Motor Clinic (EMC) was established at the Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) Centre in Manitoba. While the EMC's primary objective was to prevent delays and promote early intervention for suspected CP, the clinic has been capturing a wider range of diagnoses, including genetic and neurological conditions.

Objective

The objective was to determine the percentage of non-CP primary diagnoses made at the EMC, assess the proportion of children referred to geneticists and neurologists, and describe the genetic and neurological testing completed.

Methods

A retrospective cohort study was conducted using EMR of pediatric patients seen at the EMC from November 2019 to December 2023. Inclusion criteria encompassed patients referred for motor delays at ≤ 2 years of age. Demographic and clinical data were extracted from EMR. Primary outcomes included the frequency of non-CP diagnoses and referrals to Genetics and Neurology. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and reported using percentages and means with standard deviation.

Results

Of the 167 patients initially identified at the EMC, 25 patients were excluded after review for not meeting the inclusion criteria. The final cohort included 142 patients with a mean referral age of 19.43 ± 14.43 months and a mean assessment age of 25.56 ± 15.64 months. Genetic/Metabolic conditions were diagnosed in 56.34% (n=80), autism spectrum disorder in 22.54% (n=32) and isolated motor delay in 10.56% (n=15). Referrals for genetic/metabolic (50.7%) and neurology (34.51%) were common.

Conclusion

The EMC identifies a broad spectrum of developmental conditions beyond CP, including Genetic/Metabolic Diagnoses and Autism Spectrum Disorder, highlighting the need for comprehensive, multidisciplinary assessment and early intervention strategies.

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No

Authors

Name	Email	Role	Profession
Vaishali Shenoy	shenoyv@myumanitoba.ca	Presenting Author	Medical Student
M. Florencia Ricci	fricci@rccinc.ca	Co Author	Assistant Professor
Sandra Marles	smarles@hsc.mb.ca	Co Author	Assistant Professor