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Prevalence of epilepsy in children with IDDM and relation to anti-GAD 65 antibodies

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Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (IDDM) is a common condition in children and adolescents worldwide and so is epilepsy. Recently, there were increasing reports suggesting a potential association between IDDM and the occurrence of epilepsy. Their association might represent simply a chance to relate their underlying mechanisms. However, the cause-effect relationship is not well defined. IDDM pediatric patients have characteristic clinical and biochemical features, including the positivity of glutamic acid decarboxylase antibodies (anti-GAD 65). Literatures from other countries have shown the increased prevalence of seizure disorders in this group of patients. However, despite the high prevalence of this disease in Saudi Arabia, no studies have investigated this relationship. Moreover, literature lacks studies investigating IDDM characteristics contributing to this relationship, including anti-GAD 65. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of epilepsy among IDDM children age less than 15 years old and compare the positivity of anti-GAD 65 amongst them. Hence, the presence or absence of a relation between epilepsy in children with diabetes and presence of positive GAD 65 antibodies is tried to establish. This is a retrospective cross-sectional study, involving patients' survey and files review. Around 300 pediatric patients (age<14) with IDDM from our cohort at pediatric endocrinology clinic of King Fahad Medical City (KFMC) were randomly recruited. A questionnaire was given to caregivers to determine any history of seizure disorders, followed by retrospective review of patients' files for anti-GAD 65 positivity.

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