Highlights on child and adolescent health (Pfizer France Foundation)

Tu-S-350
Project 1: After a long-term placement in childhood: Adult outcomes and health-related quality of life
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Background.— Long term impact of vulnerabilities suffered by children under Child Welfare services is still poorly documented.

Objective.— A follow-up study in the past was conducted on 123 adults reared for long periods in small family units. Psychosocial adaptation and health-related quality of life were assessed.

Results.— Most of these adults (mean age: 36.5 years) show satisfactory socio-professional integration. The role of mental health (particularly depression), sociability, and self-esteem were highlighted. High family mortality and disabilities rates were shown compared to the general population. Quality of life varied positively according to social integration, relationships and environmental support; and negatively according to the violence endured and introjected during youth (persisting emotional and behavior problems).

Implications.— A stable and continuous placement with identification figures and news bonds has protected most of these alumni from serious problems. However, there is a vital need to implement early intensive intervention and appropriate therapeutic care during placement.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neurenf.2012.05.330

Tu-S-350a
Pfizer France Foundation highlights on child and adolescent health: 8 years of research
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In addition to its renowned annual “Forums Adolescences”, a true dialogue between teens and adults, and its four cohort studies of former patients suffering in their youth of serious and chronic diseases, the Foundation launch annually a call for research projects regarding health and well-being of children and adolescents. The submitted projects are rigorously evaluated by members of the Foundation’s Scientific Council, in the highest regard for ethics and links of interest. Members of the Scientific Council attach great importance to the methodological rigor, the high quality of the research team, the consideration of social or societal issues beyond the medical aspects, and to the originality of the project. Each year since 2004, around ten projects have been supported. This symposium presents a selection of five awarded projects, around psycho-societal and well-being items linked to the health and the consequences of the disease in the young and its entourage.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neurenf.2012.05.331

Tu-S-351
Project 2: CREATIVE (comprendre, respecter, écouter l’autre : travailler, imaginer pour vivre ensemble), a cluster randomized intervention study to improve attitudes towards children with disabilities in a school setting
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CREATIVE is an interventional multidisciplinary cluster randomized research conducted in 2006/07 in 12 French high-schools (Haute-Garonne). Its main aims were to:
– better understand attitudes of teenagers on disability;
– test the effects of a class-level intervention targeted at improving students’ attitudes towards disability.

Data was collected by self-questionnaires (students, beginning and end of school-year), semi-directive interviews (adults, disabled students) and field observations in various school settings (all).

Four factors were associated with more positive attitudes: being a girl, having a good life-satisfaction, having a disabled friend, having had information on disability. Students had more negative attitudes in schools with special units for disabled students. Perceptions of adolescents and adults regarding inclusion were discordant, while teachers found difficult to have mentally disabled students in class.

Attitudes of all students (intervention and control) improved over the school year, but no specific effect of our intervention (film + debate) could be found.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neurenf.2012.05.332

Tu-S-352
Project 3: Outcome 6 to 12 years after hospitalisation for anorexia nervosa in adolescence
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Introduction.— A study carried out by our team in 1991 showed a fairly high mortality rate of 7% 11 years after hospitalisation for AN. What is the situation in 2012?

Method.— We note that 194 patients hospitalised for AN during adolescence were evaluated with regard to vital status, on average 9.7 ± 1.6 years after their hospitalisation; 97 young women (51%) were also evaluated with respect to their outcomes.

Results.— Four (2.1%) young women had died, but none of the young men. The global outcome of the patients was good or intermediate for 62.9% of cases.

Outcome measures (PSY-4, BDI, EDI) for 24 patients were available. Three patients were in inpatient care or submitted to hospitalisation at follow-up. The mean weight gain was 18.3 ± 25.6 kg/m². BMI varied from underweight to overweight with a mean of 19.38 ± 2.17 kg/m². BMI was above the AN threshold for 85.3% of cases, and menstruation was present in about the same proportion. Only 15.5% of the subjects (n = 15) were still suffering from AN or bulimia (BN) according to complete DSM-IV criteria. Social adjustment was good on average.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neurenf.2012.05.333

Tu-S-353
Project 4: The sibship of the anorexic patient: An integrative perspective of a multidisciplinary study
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Introduction.— The aim of our multidisciplinary team was to describe the role of anorexia nervosa in sibships of anorexic patients during hospitalization with a contract of separation. To this end, we developed a prospective and descriptive study in patients and healthy adolescent sibling (n = 28, average age of patient 15.15-years, sibling: 13.93-years).

Method.— We studied in every sibship four clinical dimensions (self-esteem-Rosenberg, anxiety-STAI, depression-ADRS, and eating habits-EDI), measured Emotion expressed (FMSS), and conducted semi-directive interviews.

Results.— Sibling expression of suffering and solitude is manifested in terms of self esteem, depression or certain aspects associated with food related behavior.