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Benign occipital epilepsies of childhood: clinical features and genetics

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The early and late benign occipital epilepsies of childhood (BOEC) are described as two discrete electrophysiological syndromes, synonymous known as Panayiotopoulos and Cauzat syndromes. Our aim was to explore the clinical features, classifications and clinical genetics of these syndromes using twin and multiplex family studies to determine whether they are indeed distinct. Sixteen probands including seven twins were studied. Non-twin probands (n = 5) with a family history of epilepsy were included. Electroclinical seizure profile was characterized and probands were classified into BOEC syndromes. Detailed phenotyping of seizures was performed and phenotypic patterns within families were analysed. One-third of the children in this selected series of BOEC did not have a pure syndrome, either a second syndrome with features of both Panayiotopoulos and Cauzat syndromes. Monozygotic twin pairs did not show a higher concordance rate than dizygotic twin pairs suggesting that BOEC may not be a purely genetic disorder. In relatives with epilepsy, there was a mixed pattern of focal and generalized epilepsies with focal epilepsies predominating. BOEC is an electro-clinical spectrum with Panayiotopoulos and Cauzat syndromes at either end, many cases show mixed features. Clinical genetic studies highlight the multifactorial aetiology of BOEC as monozygotic twins have low concordance suggesting that non-conventional genetic influences or environmental factors play a major role. Family studies show both focal and generalized epilepsies reinforcing that these are not discrete categories of interictal epilepsies and are likely to have genetic determinants.
ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Risk Analysis of Aseptic Meningitis after Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccination in Korean Children by Using a Case-Crossover Design

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Epidemiologic study of a vaccine’s adverse events is not easy, so many countries have no reliable data. Vaccines containing the Urabe or Hoshino strain have been withdrawn from use in several countries. However, the data are not strong enough to form the basis of a recommendation not to use specific strains. The authors used a case-crossover design to estimate the relative risk of aseptic meningitis in children after receiving the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine in Korea. Study subjects were hospitalized children aged 8–36 months who had aseptic meningitis in 1999. Cases were confirmed by hospital chart reviews using previously defined criteria. Through a telephone survey, the authors obtained vaccination data and place information from parents’ vaccination records. Study results showed that no significant risk was associated with the Jeryl Lynn or Rubin strain of the vaccine (relative risk = 0.6, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.18, 1.97). For the Urabe or Hoshino strain, the relative risk was 5.5 (95% CI: 2.6, 11.0); the risk increased in the third week after vaccination (relative risk = 15.6, 95% CI: 5.9, 41.2) and was elevated until the sixth week. The case-crossover design was useful in confirming the risk of acute adverse events after receiving vaccines.
Risk Analysis of Aseptic Meningitis after Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccination in Korean Children by Using a Case-Crossover Design

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Epidemiologic study of a vaccine’s adverse events is not easy; so many countries have no reliable data. Vaccines containing the Urabe or Hoshino strain have been withdrawn from use in several countries. However, the data are not strong enough to form the basis of a recommendation not to use specific strains. The authors used a case-crossover design to estimate the relative risk of aseptic meningitis in children after receiving the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine in Korea. Study subjects were hospitalized children aged 8–36 months who had aseptic meningitis in 1998. Cases were confirmed by hospital chart reviews using previously defined criteria.

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; MMR, measles-mumps-rubella; RR, relative risk.
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Risk Analysis of Aseptic Meningitis after Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccination in Korean Children by Using a Case-Crossover Design

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ABSTRACT

Epidemiologic study of a vaccine's adverse events is not easy, as many countries have no reliable data. Vaccines containing the Urbano or Hoshino strain have been withdrawn from use in several countries. However, the data are not strong enough to form the basis of a recommendation not to use specific strain. The authors used a case-crossover design to estimate the relative risk of aseptic meningitis in children after receiving the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine in Korea. Study subjects were hospitalized children aged 8–36 months who had aseptic meningitis in 1998. Cases were confirmed by hospital chart reviews using previously defined criteria.

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