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Effects of Sertraline Treatment for Young Children with FXS

Laura Greiss Hess
MIND Institute, University of California, Davis, laura.hess@dominican.edu

Peter Mundy
MIND Institute, University of California, Davis

Randi Hagerman
MIND Institute, University of California, Davis

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INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE
Phenotypic manifestations for young children with fragile X syndrome (FXS) include: anxiety, sensory processing challenges, global language and communication deficits and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Many of these symptoms can be treated with medications, including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). However to date a clinical trial has not been conducted for children under five years old.

This study investigated the following question:
Are there group differences on developmental outcome measures for those children treated with sertraline compared to placebo?

PARTICIPANTS and DESIGN
• 30 children, FXS full mutation, 24-68 months
• Randomized, 6 month controlled trial of sertraline (Zoloft)
• Baseline and post-assessment design
• Assessors and subjects blind
• Research team professionals and outcome measures from the following disciplines: medicine, occupational therapy, psychology, education and speech pathology

RESULTS

Significant improvements for the sertraline treatment group found in:
- General functioning
- Overall behavior, specifically hyperactivity, impulsivity and attention
- Cognition
- Social Participation: family social events and community activities
- Improvements in behavior, particularly hyperactivity, impulsivity and attention may influence improved social participation in family activities and the community and thus overall family quality of life.
- Unique interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to a clinical trial.

SELECTED REFERENCES


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MIND Institute: Laura Hess, PhD, OT/L, and Julie Morcillo

Contact:
- Laura Greiss Hess, PhD, OT/L, greisshess@ucdavis.edu
- Randi Hagerman, MD, randi.hagerman@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu