

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### *A Parent Questionnaire for Developmental Screening in Infants Born Late and Moderately Preterm.*

#### Background

There is a growing interest in developmental screenings for preterm children in the early years to identify children at risk and to target interventions. The Parent Report of Children's Abilities-Revised (PARCAR-R), a parent questionnaire of cognitive and language development at 2 years of age, is already known for identifying neurodevelopmental delay among very preterm children and those with neonatal complications with excellent sensitivity and specificity. Therefore, the questionnaire may also be useful for developmental screening in children born late and moderately preterm (32-36 weeks) - a subgroup that has been relatively understudied.

#### Summary of results

Using the cognitive and language scales of the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, Third Edition (CB-III), scores were compared with the total PARCA-R Parent Report Composite (PRC). There was a large association between PRC and CB-III scores ( $r = 0.66$ ,  $P < .001$ ) indicating good concurrent validity. Given a sensitivity of 0.90 (95% confidence interval: 0.75-1.00) and specificity of 0.76 (95% confidence interval : 0.70-0.82). So the PARCA-R has potential for clinical use as a first-line cognitive screening tool for LMPT infants at risk.

#### Strength

The study based on a representative, population-based sample of children born LMPT and with the Bayley III a gold standard test for assessing developmental delay and, currently in this study, excellent interrater reliability was used. To use parents' report of children's behavior is a reasonable contribution to neurodevelopmental screening concepts, especially because of the identification of a relevant cut-off-score.

#### Limitations

Authors report underrepresentation of families with socioeconomic deprivation and multiple births in the final sample. PARCA-R doesn't represent a comprehensive developmental screening, caused to missing assessment of motor development.

#### Practical conclusion

Given the good concurrent validity, sensitivity and specificity, PARCA-R can be used as a clinical screening tool for developmental problems in the early years for children born LMPT - a group, that accounts for about 84% of all preterm births. Thus, the identification of children at risk and early targeting of intervention could have significant public health impact.

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