CONCLUSIONS

- All children with congenital shunted hydrocephalus, with or without MMC, are at high risk of developing E/PP.
- In children without MMC the risk is comparable between the genders.
- In those with MMC the risk is most marked in girls.
- The mechanism behind the later onset of puberty in boys with MMC should be further investigated.

OBJECTIVE

To study the influence of MMC and gender on timing of puberty in children with increased intracranial pressure perinatally.

METHOD

All children with congenital hydrocephalus, born 1980 - 2002, treated with shunt and living in Uppsala county, were identified.

The cohort included 35 children (16 girls). Eighteen children (8 girls) had MMC.

Health records were examined retrospectively.

E/PP was defined as pubertal signs appearing before 9:2 years for girls and 10:2 years for boys.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>without MMC</td>
<td>with MMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age start puberty (yrs)</td>
<td>8.4 +/- 2.0</td>
<td>8.3 +/- 1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP or PP</td>
<td>6/8 (75%)</td>
<td>7/8 (88%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Age at start of puberty and proportion of children with E/PP in the various groups

REFERENCES


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