Behavioural Sequel following TBI

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TBI can cause brain damage that is focal (e.g., gunshot wound), diffuse (e.g., shaken baby syndrome), or both. Symptoms can vary depending on site of lesion, extent of damage to the brain, and the child's age or stage of development.
The full sequel of pediatric TBI can emerge and/or persist well into adulthood.

TBI is perceived in children as a chronic disease process rather than a one-time event.
As a result of a brain injury, children and adolescents may undergo many changes in daily routines, life and educational skills, and relationships with friends and family members.

Older children may remember how they were before their injury. Such memories may cause emotional reactions that alter their self-esteem and affect their behavior.

Behaviour - Internalizing and Externalizing disorders.

How different life is after brain injury becomes clear when the child returns to a familiar environment.
“A child’s brain continues to develop until he or she reaches his or her early 20s… The full impact of an injury on a child’s brain becomes evident over time as the brain fails to mature in line with the child’s physical growth and development… These delayed or latent effects can create lifetime challenges for living and learning for children, their families, schools, and communities.”

Some young children with TBI may demonstrate relatively typical developmental progression after the initial stages of recovery.

Others continue to have long-term difficulty learning new information and negotiating more complex social interactions due to impairments in cognitive functions.
Signs and Symptoms Related to Traumatic Brain Injury

- Physical

- Sensory-Perceptual - Auditory and Vestibular, Visual, Other Sensory Perceptual Sequel


- Feeding and Swallowing
Signs and Symptoms Related to Traumatic Brain Injury (conti..)

Cognition
• Attention
• Executive Functioning
• Information Processing
• Memory and Learning
• Metacognition
• Other Cognitive Deficits like disorientation and/or impaired spatial cognition
Signs and Symptoms Related to Traumatic Brain Injury (conti..)

Behavioral and Emotional
• Agitation, aggression, and/or combativeness
• Anxiety
• Apathy and/or lack of motivation
• Changes in affect—overemotional, over reactive, emotionless (flat affect)
• Changes in sleep patterns (e.g., insomnia or hypersomnia)
Signs and Symptoms Related to Traumatic Brain Injury (conti..)

- Depression
- Difficulty identifying emotions of self and others (alexithymia)
- Disinhibition and poor self-regulation
- Emotional lability
- Excessive drowsiness
- Feeling of disorientation or "fogginess"
Signs and Symptoms Related to Traumatic Brain Injury (conti..)

- Heightened sensory sensitivity with exaggerated reactions to perceived threats (hypervigilance)
- Impulsivity
- Irritability
- Mood changes or mood swings
- Reduced frustration tolerance
- Temperamental difficulty - premorbid
Signs and symptoms may co-occur with other existing developmental conditions such as Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, Learning disabilities, Autism spectrum disorder, Intellectual disability and also Childhood speech related disorders like Apraxia of speech, Fluency disorders, Late language emergence, Spoken language disorders, Written language disorders and Social communication disorders.
Infants and toddlers may lack the communication or developmental skills to overtly report the signs and symptoms of TBI.

- Changes in the ability to pay attention
- Changes in eating or nursing habits
- Changes in sleeping habits
- Changes in play (e.g., loss of interest in favorite toys/activities)
Irritability, persistent crying, and inability to be consoled

Lethargy

Loss of acquired language

Loss of new skills, such as toilet training

Sensitivity to light and/or noise

Unsteady walking, loss of balance
• Assessment
• Cognitive functions
• Behavioural problems
• Emotional disturbances

• Intervention
• Pharmacological
• Non pharmacological
Any Queries?
Thank you

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