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COMMENT. Children and adolescents with uncomplicated Tourette syndrome (TS) are not at risk for aggressive and disruptive behavior, whereas those with comorbid TS+ADHD have a significantly higher prevalence of behavioral and conduct disorders, similar to that found with ADHD alone. Aggressive and delinquent behaviors have a negative impact on social and family functioning, adding further burdens to the quality of life of children with comorbid TS/ADHD.

PROGNOSIS OF LANGUAGE-DELAYED AND AUTISTIC PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

The outcome of 18 children (13 males, 5 females) with severe developmental language delay and some features of autism (not fulfilling all criteria), examined at preschool age (mean age 4 years 4 months) and again 4 years later (mean age 8 years 7 months), was evaluated at the Institute of Child Health, London, UK. At follow-up, 5 children had continuing language disorder and fulfilled diagnostic criteria for childhood autism, 4 had atypical autism with associated language disorder, and 9 had atypical autism with improved language skills. Degree of social communication impairments and repetitive behaviors at preschool evaluation correlated with severity of autism symptoms at follow-up. Parents' concerns initially were mainly about speech and language whereas at follow-up, social difficulties and social isolation were the primary concerns and inability to relate to peers. The presence of restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped behaviors in preschoolers with language delay is a negative prognostic indicator of a diagnosis of autism in later childhood. (Michelotti J, Charman T, Slonims V, Baird G. Follow-up of children with language delay and features of autism from preschool years to middle childhood. *Dev Med Child Neurol* Nov 2002;44:812-819). (Respond: Dr Tony Charman, Behavioural and Brain Science Unit, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH, UK.).

COMMENT. The relation between language delay and autism presents a diagnostic challenge in preschool children. Impairments of social interaction and repetitive behaviors reported by parents or preschool care-givers are considered risk factors for a diagnosis of autism in later childhood, especially in association with language delay. An early diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder will permit access to appropriate interventional services.

EFFECT OF LEVETIRACETAM ON MOTOR LEARNING

The effect of the antiepileptic drug, levetiracetam, on rapid motor learning was tested in 10 healthy, right-handed volunteers (age, 22 to 43 years) by investigators from the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, and Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. Maximum pinch force of the left thumb and index finger was determined by a pinch gauge, and the average pinch force of 5 trials was calculated before and after 30 minutes of practice at 0.5 Hz. Either 3000 mg of levetiracetam or placebo was administered 1 hour before the experiment. With placebo, pinch practice significantly increased pinch