megalencephaly. J Pediatr August 1997;131:320-324). (Reprints: Adrian D Sandler MD, Center for Child Development, Thoms Rehabilitation Hospital, PO Box 15025, Asheville, NC 28813).

COMMENT. Idiopathic megalencephaly in school-age children, sometimes considered 'benign.' may be associated with subtle motor impairments and neurodevelopmental dysfunction.

INFANT CT-DILATED VENTRICLES AND LEARNING DISORDERS

The risk of developing learning disability at school age in extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants showing dilated lateral ventricles on CT at postconceptual age of 40 weeks was evaluated at Akita School of Medicine, Japan. The mean area of lateral ventricles, measured by computer digitizer, was significantly larger in the learning disability group of 20 children than controls. None had progressive hydrocephalus, and the dilated ventricles were secondary to brain atrophy. (Ishida A, Nakajima W, Arai H et al. Cranial computed tomography scans of premature babies predict their eventual learning disabilities. Pediatr Neurol May 1997;16:319-322). (Respond: Dr Ishida, Department of Pediatrics, Akita University School of Medicine, 1-1-1 Hondo, Akita-shi, Akita 010, Japan).

COMMENT. Measurement of lateral ventricles by cranial CT at corrected term in ELBW newborns is an early predictor of learning disabilities at school age, and provides an opportunity for early educational intervention.

ADHD in low birth weight children. Neonatal cranial ultrasound abnormalities suggestive of white matter injury in low-birth-weight children were an increased risk for neuropsychiatric disorders by age 6 years in a study at Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute. (Whitaker AH, Van Rossem R, Feldman JF et al. Psychiatric outcomes in low-birth-weight children at age 6 years: Relation to neonatal cranial ultrasound abnormalities. Arch Gen Psychiatry Sept 1997;54:847-856). Twenty-two percent of the cohort were affected; ADHD was the most common disorder (16%).

DIET AND INFANT BEHAVIOR

The relation between rate of weight gain and diet-dependent changes in biochemistry, physiology and behavior of 142 preterm infants (mean birthweight 1364 g) fed varied protein and energy intakes was evaluated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. Rapidly growing infants had increased heart rates, respiratory rates, active sleep time, and decreased spectral edge EEG frequencies compared to slow growers. The changes in autonomic responses related to diet and rapid growth were explained by an hypothesis of shifts in the balance of catecholamine and serotonergic neurotransmitter systems. (de Klerk A, Schulze KF, Kashyap S, Sahni R, Fifer W, Myers M. Diet and infant behavior. Acta Paediatr Suppl 422 July 1997;86:65-68). (Respond: Dr KF Schulze, Department of Pediatrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, 630 West 168th St, New York, NY 10032).

COMMENT. This study of diet and behavior in LBW infants was stimulated by reports of the influence of infant diets on later adult morbidity. The authors were particularly interested in early diet in relation to adult diseases such as hypertension. The findings might also apply to nervous system development and a possible diet related mechanism of attention deficit and