HEARING AND VESTIBULAR SYSTEM EVALUATION IN PEDIATRIC BEHCET DISEASE

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CONCLUSION

To our knowledge, the present study is the first report evaluating hearing and vestibular system status in children with BD. The results of this preliminary study showed presence of delayed VEMP and abnormal VHIT responses without sensory-neural hearing loss in children with Behcet’s Disease.

OBJECTIVES:
The presences of high frequency hearing loss and delayed vestibular evoked myogenic potential (VEMP) responses are common findings in adult patients with Behcet Disease (BD). The aim of this study is to investigate hearing and vestibular system status in children with BD.

METHODS:
Children under the age of 16 with BD were evaluated for pure tone audiometry (PTA), oto-acoustic emission (OAE), vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (VEMPs) and vestibular head impulse test (VHIT). Behcet Disease current activity form (BDCAF) was completed at the time of these tests.

RESULTS:
Twenty BD children were included in this study. Mean age was 11.5 years (5-16) and mean disease duration was of 2.6 years (0.5–12 years). There were 13 males (65%) and 7 females (35%). The mean BDCAF was 4.95 (2–8). There was no sensory-neural hearing loss in any child. However, a delayed VEMP response was recorded on the right-side in 16 (80%) and on the left-side in 17 (85%) of children. VHIT results showed abnormality in 14 (70%) on the right-side and in 13 (65%) on the left-side.