

Prevalence of inherited/congenital neurological disorders in Azad Jammu and Kashmir

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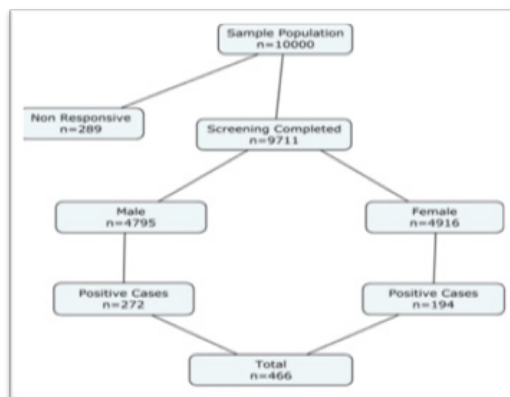
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Statement of the Problem: Large scale epidemiological studies on inherited/congenital neurological diseases are rare in Pakistan and also in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, we conducted a population based cross sectional epidemiological study on a stratified randomly selected samples from the four major districts of AJ &K to study the four major inherited/ congenital neurological disorders which includes; intellectual disability, microcephaly, neuromuscular dystrophy and Parkinson's disease.

Methodology: Families with inherited/congenital neurological disorders were randomly recruited through door to door survey. Approval for this study was obtained by board of advanced studies from University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Findings: Total 10,000 individuals were selected for interview among which 9711 (97.11%) took part in the study while 289(2.89%) refuse to take part in this study. Among responsive, the total number of affected individuals with different neurological disorders was 466 (4.80%) with an age range of 1-60 years. According to this data prevalence of neurological disorders in males was more 272 (5.67%) than the females 194(3.94%). The highest prevalence was recorded in age <18 years 253 (6.40%). Among the total positive cases intellectual disability was most frequent 337 (72.31%), followed by microcephaly 64 (13.7%), neuromuscular dystrophy 51(10.90%) and Parkinson 14 (3.00%).

Conclusion & Significance: Present data suggests that inherited intellectual disability is the most frequent among all neurological disorders so further exploration, population base studies and genetic counseling is necessary.



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