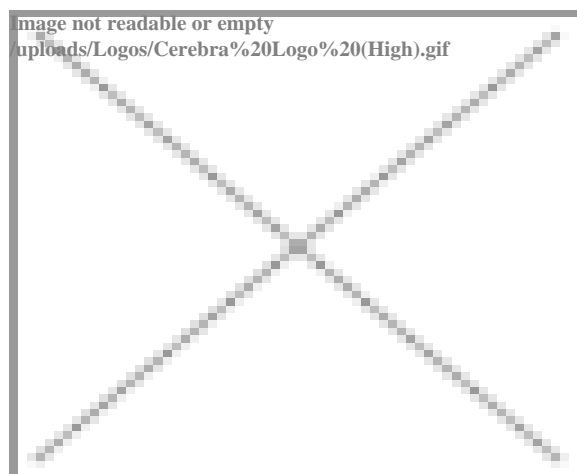


Get Involved - Research Projects

Sleep Disturbances in Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders



Funded by Cerebra from 2013 to 2016

Please note: This project has now ended, but Part Two has been launched. Click [here](#) for more details.

Background

Previous research has described a number of sleep difficulties that may be experienced by children with Angelman syndrome, Smith-Magenis syndrome, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, Prader-Willi syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder. These include reduced sleep duration, night wakings, settling problems, daytime sleepiness and early morning waking. Both questionnaires and the objective measurement of sleep quality have been used in the study of sleep in children with neurodevelopmental disorders but this project will also consider the relationships between sleep quality and daytime behaviour across children with different neurodevelopmental disorders, and the relationship to parental wellbeing. The use of actiwatchs (wrist-watch like devices worn on the wrist that record activity levels) will enable the researchers to develop a more detailed understanding of the relationship between sleep quality, daytime sleepiness and challenging behaviour.

Aims

This project aims to describe and compare the types of sleep difficulties experienced by children with Angelman syndrome, Smith-Magenis syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder. The project will also consider whether any of these sleep difficulties are associated with challenging behaviour, over activity and impulsivity, health problems and level of intellectual disability and the associated relationship between sleep quality and parental wellbeing.

Method

Study 1: Parents of children with Angelman syndrome, Smith-Magenis syndrome, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, Prader-Willi syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder are invited to complete an online questionnaire enquiring into children's sleep quality, daytime behaviour and health. *Data collection for this study is now complete.*

Study 2: Parents of children with Angelman syndrome, Smith-Magenis syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder who meet eligibility criteria will be invited to participate in an objective study of their child's sleep/wake patterns using actiwatches. Daytime behaviour will also be assessed by parents and teachers. Saliva samples (measuring cortisol) will be given by parents alongside the study in order to examine the relationship between sleep quality and parental wellbeing.

Get involved!

Study 2: Actiwatch study

If your child has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (living in the West Midlands), Smith-Magenis syndrome or Angelman syndrome, is aged between 4 and 15 years inclusive (attending school) and you consider them to have a sleep problem, please watch the video below to learn more information about the study and how to get involved.

To find out more: If your child has a diagnosis of Smith-Magenis syndrome or Angelman syndrome, please contact:



Jayne Trickett

Email: JXT292@bham.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 4142855

If your child has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and you live in the West Midlands please contact:



Dr Caroline Richards

Email: c.r.richards@bham.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 4147206

Members of the sleep project team



Back row left to right: Dr Emma Clarkson, Dr Mary Heald, Dr Andy Surtees, Dr Caroline Richards

Front row left to right: Miriam Chaudhry, Hannah Ramshaw, Jayne Trickett

Supervisor: Professor Chris Oliver

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