CHAPTER 12

Natural History of Cerebral Palsy

ABSTRACT: The natural course of CP has changed greatly during the past 50 years. If appropriate health care is available, affected children without significant comorbidities have actuarial survival approaching that of the general population.

An understanding of the natural history of CP is essential for a proper prognosis and provision of support services. The natural history of untreated CP is one of progressive deterioration. It has been shown that without intervention, detrimental changes in gait and function will occur over time span as short as 1.5 years. The impact of skeletal growth during childhood can compound the primary neurological problem if muscles fail to lengthen in proportion to their adjacent long bones, and spastic muscles have been shown to grow more slowly than normal. Therefore, although CP is by definition a static neurological lesion and a disorder of motor function, the phenotype has also been labelled a 'progressive neuromuscular deformity'. During adolescent growth sput, many patients gain substantial weight, their gait worsens and become wheelchair bound. Important items include prognosis for life expectancy, walking, and hand function. The symptoms range from a mild gait abnormality to profound total body involvement. The standardized mortality ratios for CP in all ages, is significantly raised. There is a sharp fall in SMR after 14 years though mortality remains higher from ischemic heart disease and cancer than in the general population.

KEYWORDS Predicting the ability to walk, Walking beyond the second decade of life, Hand function: use it or lose it, Life expectancy, Quality of life and costs of caring, Medicolegal aspects

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Survival

Children with total body involvement and bulbar difficulties, necessitating alternative feeding, are

Natural History Of Cerebral Palsy

Harry N. Herkowitz, Steven R. Garfin, Frank J. Eismont, Gordon R. Bell, Richard A. Balderston

Natural History Of Cerebral Palsy:

Reviewing Natural History Of Cerebral Palsy: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is really astonishing. Within the pages of "Natural History Of Cerebral Palsy," an enthralling opus penned by a highly acclaimed wordsmith, readers set about an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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