

Efficacy of Fluoxetine in Developmental Coordination Disorder in Children

D. Pan¹, A. Mallick¹

¹Psychiatry, Saltlake Mindset, Kolkata, India

Introduction: DCD is a motor skill disorder that interferes with children's (majority boys) ability to perform day to day activities. In addition to their motor coordination problem it generally interferes with academic performance, social integration and self esteem.

Methods: 16 healthy boys, age 8-12 yrs with DCD. Inclusion Criteria: Diagnosis of DCD, based on DSM IV criteria and a score below the suspected clinical cutoff on the Parent-reported Movement Assessment Battery for Children-Checklist for DCD (<15th percentile). Exclusion Criteria: 1) Intellectual disability; 2) ADHD; 3) orthopedic or rheumatologic impairments; 4) Tic disorders; 5) acquired brain injury; 6) severe sensory loss (visual /auditory); 7) other psychiatric disorders.

Procedure: Participants were randomly divided into 2 groups. One who would receive (10mg/day) Fluoxetine (Experimental) and the other who would receive Placebo (Control).

Assessment: Participants were assessed using CGAS at the beginning and end of the study period (3 months) and were statistically analyzed. **Results:** There was no significant difference between mean global score of the control group before and after placebo administration. When t score was computed in the experimental group before and after administration of Fluoxetine, statistically significant difference in the mean global score was noticed. **Conclusion:** It is an established fact that DCD doesn't really improve on pharmacotherapy. Hence, Fluoxetine, an SSRI cannot be expected to bring any change in the motor functionality of the children suffering from DCD, but, as the present study suggests, it may help the victims cope with the disorder better, probably by boosting self esteem.