

Publication

Behavioural phenotype in foetal alcohol syndrome and foetal alcohol effects

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Author(s) Steinhausen, Hans-Christoph; Willms, Judith; Metzke, Christa Winkler; Spohr, Hans-Ludwig

Author(s) at UniBasel [Steinhausen, Hans-Christoph](#) ;

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A sample of 12 children (seven males, five females; mean age 6 years 7 months, SD 2 years 6 months, range 2 years 4 months to 12 years 1 month) with moderate-to-severe foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and another sample of 26 children (12 males, 14 females; mean age of 6 years 2 months SD 2 years 10 months, range 2 years 6 months to 12 years 8 months) with mild FAS or foetal alcohol effects (FAE) as well as a sample of 15 age- and sex-matched control children with unspecific intellectual disability were compared using the Developmental Behaviour Checklist (DBC). There were significant differences ($p=0.01$) between the groups on five of six subscales of the DBC with controls scoring lower on the disruptive, self-absorbed, anxiety, antisocial behaviour, and communication disturbance scales. The DBC profiles of the two foetal alcohol exposed groups did not differ from each other. It is concluded that quantitative behaviour measurement provides insights into specific behavioural phenotypes of FAS/FAE.

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