

# ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTIONAL INDEPENDENCE SCORE IN HEMOPHILIA IN INDIAN CHILDREN WITH HEMOPHILIA



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## INTRODUCTION

- Functional independence score in hemophilia (FISH) is a performance based assessment tool to objectively measure the functional ability of persons with hemophilia.
- This study was done to find out if FISH is useful in the evaluation of Indian children with hemophilia.

## METHODS

- In a cross-sectional study, 62 children with hemophilia of age 4-18 years were assessed.
- Each patient was evaluated for seven activities under three categories:
  - self care (grooming, eating, bathing and dressing),
  - transfers (chair and floor), and
  - mobility (walking and step climbing).
- Each activity was graded from 1 to 4 according to the amount of assistance required with score range 7 to 28.
  - Unable to perform the activity / needs complete assistance
  - Needs partial assistance / aid / modified instruments / modified environment to perform the activity
  - Able to perform the activity without aid / assistance but with slight discomfort.
  - Able to perform the activity without any difficulty (like other healthy peers).

## RESULTS

- Mean age: 10.97 years, mean FISH score:  $25.32 \pm 4.11$  (range 7 to 28).
- Score in children with no joints affected was high,  $28 \pm 0$  whereas in those with joints affected was significantly low,  $24.75 \pm 4.32$  ( $p < 0.02$ ).
- Lesser the age significantly higher was the score. 4-8 years -  $27.73 \pm 1.03$  years; 9-12 years -  $25.82 \pm 3.43$  years and 13-18 years -  $23.44 \pm 4.49$  ( $p$ : 0.003, 0.036 respectively).



- Mean score in children with 4 or more joints affected was  $24.63 \pm 3.37$  and in those with less than 4 joints affected was  $24.85 \pm 4.85$ . Mean score in frequent bleeders (bleeding frequency  $\geq 1$  per month) was  $24.79 \pm 3.88$  and in infrequent bleeders was  $25.65 \pm 4.32$ . Mean score in children with severe hemophilia was  $25.1 \pm 4.1$  and in moderate hemophilia was  $25.25 \pm 6.08$ .



## CONCLUSION

➤ A 'significant' decrease in functional ability was demonstrated with

- Increasing age of the child,
- Those with joint involvement compared to those without joint involvement.

➤ The score showed decreasing trend with

- Increase in the number of joints affected
- Frequency of bleeding and severity of hemophilia

*But it was statistically insignificant.*

## CONTRIBUTION

Study shows sensitivity of FISH to changes in functional ability of children with Hemophilia with respect to age and joint involvement.

## REFERENCES

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