The Diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

DOI: 10.15804/tner.2015.42.4.09

Abstract
Prenatal exposure of a child to alcohol may cause Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FAS/FASD). As a result, the affected child may exhibit lower intellect, neurosensory disorders, hyperactivity, executive functions disorder, abstract thinking and behaviour disorders combined with growth disorders and facial dysmorphia. In addition, undiagnosed and untreated children may suffer from serious secondary and tertiary disabilities. The aim of this paper is to provide a research overview of practical information about FAS/FASD syndrome, a presentation of the 4-Digit Diagnostic Code method and a sample of the research results by the first Centre of Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of FAS in Slovakia.

Keywords: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum disorder, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, Slovakia

Introduction

FAS (Q 86.0) (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) describes a set of symptoms in the children of mothers who consumed alcohol during the pregnancy and all the symptoms, such as typical facial dysmorphia, CNS damage and a growth deficiency, are present. If only a few signs are present, these are then covered under the term FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder).

Four diagnoses fall under the umbrella of FASD: FAS, partial FAS, static encephalopathy, neurobehavioral disorder.