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Lifespan perspective on diagnostics along the disease trajectory of children with a neurobiological developmental delay or disorder. A network approach.

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Introduction

Children with (suspected) NDDD are clinically expected to be diagnosed by a multidisciplinary team as early as possible, because of the impact on subsequent development. In different stages of the disorder and health care use trajectory of the child, diagnostics are needed to clear out development, evolution and recent symptoms. Currently, there is no evidence on the types and organization of diagnostics and follow up care children with NDDD need, related to the phases of the trajectory.

Methods

Literature review on neurobiological developmental disorders, (multidisciplinary) diagnostics, disease trajectories, networks in health care.

Results

• Neurobiological developmental delays and disorders (NDDD) are dysfunctions in the development, involving a large variety in etiology, expression and severity.
• Assessment at all areas of development (verbal and non-verbal cognition, expressive and receptive language, fine and gross motor development, social communication, social-emotional development) is needed.
• Classifying and action-oriented diagnostics can be distinguished, as well as mono- and multidisciplinary diagnostics.
• Mostly, diagnostics are followed by interventions (rehabilitation, support), which may prevent academic failure, behavior problems, dropout, delinquency and the development of more severe mental health issues in later life.
• These interventions are based on the diagnostic outcome and partly determine the health care use and personal functioning trajectory of the child.

Conclusion

Children with NDDD follow a non-linear trajectory of diagnostics, rehabilitation and support. Specialized diagnostics are needed at different stages along the trajectory of the child. An integrated health care approach taking into account the characteristics of trajectories needs to be enhanced through whole (mandated) networks.

References


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