

0318

Prevalence of sensory symptoms and emotional regulation in Australian children with tic disorders

Nicolette Soler^{1,2}, Russell Dale^{1,2}, Paula Bray^{1,2}, Chris Hardwick², Iain Perkes¹

¹*The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia,* ²*The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, Australia*

Introduction: Tic disorders negatively interrupt a child's daily participation. Non-pharmacological treatments focus on a behavioural therapy model. These treatments require considerable effort by the child, family and therapist to achieve modest therapeutic gains due to intensity of the program. The Premonitory Urge (PU) is understood to have a role in tic expression and interest has recently turned to examining the sensory nature of the PU. Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) was found to be more prevalent in children diagnosed with tic disorder compared with healthy controls.

Objective: This prevalence study aimed to understand the relationship between sensory symptoms, emotional regulation and tics.

Method: This is part of a larger study which compares children with tics (n=120), Epilepsy (n= 50), ASD (n=50), ASD and tics (n=50) and a control group (n= 50) represent this prevalence study. A subgroup analysis of data to date will be presented. Parents completed 5 questionnaires (two sensory, behavior, executive functioning and quality of life). A clinician (staff specialist) completed the Yale Global Tic Severity Scale.

Conclusion: This study aims to understand the prevalence of sensory symptoms for children with a tic disorder compared with other neurodevelopmental conditions and healthy controls. Data gathered may provide occupational therapists with an improved knowledge of the sensory symptoms and a sensory profile of children with tic disorders. A better understanding of emotional regulation and its impact on tic severity may improve conceptual understanding of tic disorders and ultimately, lead to novel treatment opportunities.