P41 Lack of routine vestibular assessment in children with congenital CMV in Europe

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Background and Aims
Vestibular impairment in congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) is an important and underrecognized sequelae. Vestibular impairment can be screened for in clinic with simple clinical vestibular screening tests, which can be done in infants down to six weeks of age. Children with clinical vestibular or balance concerns should then be referred for formal diagnostic vestibular assessments which can be accurately performed in children under 5 years of age. Vestibular physiotherapy has been shown to improve gross motor outcomes in children with impairment and simple exercises can be taught to parents. We aimed to describe vestibular assessment and impairment in a large cohort of children with cCMV.

Methods
The cCMVnet database is a European multicentre prospective cohort study, including children with cCMV, diagnosed within 21 days of life. In this study we included all children in the database for whom investigators had answered yes or no to the question 'Any Balance Problems/Vestibular Involvement'.

Results
There are 1475 patients in the cCMVnet registry, 248 (16.8%) of whom were included in this study as the investigator documented presence or absence of balance/vestibular problems. 24/248 (9.7%) of patients were reported to have such problems. Of the patients with reported vestibular/balance problems, 9 (37.5%) were asymptomatic at birth and 12 (50.0%) had normal hearing at birth. Patients with reported hearing loss were more likely to have vestibular/balance problems than those without ($p = 0.002$).

Conclusion

In the cCMVnet registry, balance/vestibular problems were reported in a minority of patients, however an assessment of balance/vestibular function was only performed by a small number of respondents . With this abstract we aim to raise awareness about vestibular impairment in cCMV. We will use the findings of this study to include new fields on balance, vestibular function and vestibular testing in the database and subsequently help improve our understanding of the vestibular consequences of cCMV.