

The life of children with Cerebral Palsy

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Introduction: life expectancy among people with cerebral palsy depends on the severity of the physical and functional disability.

Objective: to show the life of children with cerebral palsy.

Material and methods: 200 subjects with idiopathic cerebral palsy, of whom 155 were followed and included in the analysis. The effect of the functional ability (manual dexterity and mental ability), sex, birth, birth weight, gestational age and Apgar of survival.

Results: 10 year survival for the entire group was 79.3% for women and 76.9% men. For people without severe functional disabilities 10 year survival was 95% (period of confidence 98% to 100%), while people from all three functional groups have 20 year survival of 50% (42% to 58%). Children with birth weight ≤ 2500 g have a 10 year survival of 90% (85% to 90%), while those with a birth weight < 2500 g have a survival of 80% (80% to 85%). Children with gestational age < 36 weeks have a 10 year survival of 88% (88% to 90%), while those with a

gestational age ≥ 37 weeks had a survival of 80% (80% to 85%). Birth weight and gestational age are less predictive of survival than functional disability. The best statistical model used gestational age and the number of severe functional impairments as indicators.

Conclusions: The life of this group of children with cerebral palsy was higher than shown. This has important implications for social, educational and health services. Cerebral palsy is the most common cause of severe physical disability in children, and its prevalence is increasing due to greater survival of infants with low birth weight. Today there is little information available to perceive life expectancy of children with cerebral palsy, it is necessary to plan and provide appropriate services for people with disabilities.

The group of mild and moderate disabled children were much lower than those with the unchanged serious condition, and about half of the children survived to age 10. These results have important implications for the provision of social, educational, health and educational services.

Keywords: life expectancy, children with Cerebral Palsy