Sensorineural Hearing Loss and Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection

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We read the article on “Sensorineural hearing loss in a patient affected by congenital cytomegalovirus infection” with a great interest.¹ Fontana et al reported on “a 3-year-old female patient with symptomatic congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection who also exhibited developmental delay, dysmorphic facial features, bilateral hearing loss, and cochlear incomplete partition, type 2, with 7q21.3 deletion.”¹ Fontana et al raised an important question, “Is it useful to identify comorbid pathologies?”¹ In fact, there are several causes of sensorineural hearing loss. The genetic investigation might be useful for the diagnosis of possible underlying factor. However, there is no clear information on the prevalence of sensorineural hearing loss due to the genetic problem. The problem might or might not be more common than the environmental factors such as infections.² The general screening for hearing loss might be useful in the area with high prevalence,³ but the clinical value of specific genetic test should be discussed. The clinical usefulness of the genetic investigation has to be assessed for the cost effectiveness. In our setting, in tropical

country, the infection is the main cause of congenital sensorineural hearing loss, and the genetic investigation is usually not indicated.

Conflict of Interest

None.

References

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