

THE PERIPHERAL BLOOD PICTURE AND CLINICAL ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

SUMMARY

The authors presented the peripheral blood picture, red and white blood cells counts, as well as clinical assessment and living conditions of 92 children in the first three years of age, whose parents were alcohol addicts. The data were compared with these from a control group of 93 peers whose parents had no alcohol problem. Children of alcohol were found to differ statistically significantly from the controls as regards the newborn's assessment, physical and psychomotor development, as well as the household living standard. Blood counts in the former group indicated anemia, most frequently hypochromic and macrocytic, as well as a shift in the white cells pattern consisting in a reduction of lymphocytes ratio and an increase in the number of phagocyte cells: granulocytes, monocytes, reticular cells. Statistically significant differences were found among two-year-olds, more pronounced in children whose both parents were alcohol abusers or mothers were alcoholics than in those who had fathers addicted to alcohol. Peripheral blood count may serve as an important index of intrauterine alcohol-produced damage to children of alcohol abusing parents.

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