

EUFASD 2016

12th - 15th
September
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Royal Holloway,
University of London

FOURTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON FASD

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Fourth European
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**Royal Holloway, University of
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[M10]

Children prenatally exposed to alcohol – a case study in north of Portugal

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Alcohol use during pregnancy is a worldwide significant public health problem. Obtaining accurate information about prenatal alcohol exposure is particularly important because of the risks for negative neonatal and later neurobehavioral outcomes, ranging from subtle developmental problems to fetal alcohol syndrome. The purpose of this poster is to present the developmental characterization of a group of children prenatally exposed to alcohol, born at a Hospital of North of Portugal between 2005 and the first 6 months of 2009, and discuss difficulties of detecting prenatal alcohol exposure.

Analysis of paper medical records allowed identification of 13 children. Their parents were contacted by members of the research team from the hospital's staff and informed consent was obtained. At the moment of the first contact, children had a mean age of 38.79 months (14 to 62 months). Emotional and behavioral problems were studied by use of Achenbach's Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) and general development and language, motor and social development and cognition were assessed using the Griffiths Mental development Scales (0-2 and 3-8 years). Socio-demographics characteristics were assessed by caregiver interview.

All children scored below the normative mean for their age (problems in language area, mobility and autonomy). Externalizing and internalizing results (CBCL) were comparable to nonclinical normative sample (USA and Portugal). Results obtained with CBCL and GNDS showed notorious inter-individual variation. 61.5% mothers report not to currently consume alcohol.

Prenatal exposure were under-diagnosed but adequate diagnosis is critical to early intervention. We defend use of adequate screening and report strategies and that a non-punitive/collaborative work between the different professionals involved in health care arena is necessary. We hope that this kind of work represents an alert and a step to error prevention in detection of prenatal alcohol exposure.