Exploratory analysis of gross motor function classified by Gross Motor Function Measure in children with cerebral palsy. Teleton Institutes 2008

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ABSTRACT
Introduction: The analysis of 459 GMFM-66 evaluations from children with cerebral palsy of both sexes, ages 1 to 21 treated in the Teleton-Chile Institutes is presented.

Objective: To describe the classification of children according to their institute of origin, age group, type and topographic distribution of CP, and level of GMFCS.

Materials and Method: Gross Motor Function Measure data bases are reviewed for each Institute in 2008. The data were processed using SPSS 17.0. Summarizing measures of the variables considered were calculated, and a test for the association of \( \chi^2 \) with \( p < 0.05 \) was applied.

Results: The greatest coverage of GMFM-66 application was registered in the Santiago and Talca Institutes; ages mostly evaluated were 3-5; 80% were spastic; 82.5% are diplegia or hemiplegia; the lowest scores are concentrated in the age group < 3, and the highest, in the > 5 years. A significant association was obtained between GMFM-66 and GMFCS (\( p < 0.0001 \)).

Conclusion: Data depict the distribution of the functional compromise of a group of patients that are treated in our institutes. The association between the result of the evaluation with the GMFM and the GMFCS is similar to other reports. However, more stable conclusions can only be established when a greater number of evaluated patients is available, with similar criterion for their selection across the Institution.

Key words: GMFM-66, GMFCS, cerebral palsy, children