P23. BAFE AND BRIEF-P FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN PRESCHOOL AGE

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Introduction. The Executive Functions (EFs), namely inhibition, working memory and cognitive flexibility, are fundamental cognitive processes for human adaptation. This study aimed to early detect EFs' disorders in a preschool pediatric population by means of BAFE and to highlight the importance of an early intervention in children at risk of EFs' disorders.

Methods: In a cross-sectional, observational study carried out in four public nursery schools in the city of Salerno (Italy), 212 children (106 males), aged between 36 and 72 months, were evaluated by means of BAFE battery (Battery for the Assessment of Executive Functions), which consisted of four tests (Card Sort, Stroop-like day-night task, Pattern-making, Spin the pots), and, the BRIEF-P (Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function - Preschool Version), which is an indirect test that consists of a questionnaire including 63 items to be filled in by parents/caregivers.

Results: BAFE test showed pathological scores in about 16.5% of children, at least in one task. Executive functions were worse in males, and in children with a history of "speech therapy" and "complicated pregnancy". Only 1.4% of children were detected as pathological at BRIEF-P questionnaire. No significant correlation was found between pathological scores in BAFE and both parents and teachers BRIEF-P tests.

Conclusions: In preschool non selected children, the direct test (BAFE) detected more executive function deficits than the indirect questionnaire (BRIEF-P) by parents and teachers.