THE INFLUENCE OF BABY WALKER ON NEUROLOGICAL AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN – Rewiev study

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**Abstract**

INTRODUCTION: During the last few years the number of children comming to our facility because of difficulties in sofisticated motor activities performance is more increasing. These difficulties are especially noticed while performing sport activities in school. The most often difficulties were in performance of rolling over the head, one leg standing while performing movement with other leg, walking down the bench and other physical activities that include a good postural reactions. Through the anamnestic questioning we found out that all those children with above mentioned difficulties used baby walker during a period of a few months before the age of one year.

METODOLOGY: We sistematicly investigated the research data, articles and papers on influence of baby walker on psychological, motor, sensory development of children and injuries caused by baby walker use. Unfortunately, there is a small number of research on this topic available. In this study we collected and analized the data from 11 researches that have the goal to determine the influence of baby walker on psychomotor development of children.

RESULTS: Out of 11 reserach we analized, one showed statisticaly signifficant influence of baby walker use on motor development and speach in children. The research on influence of baby walker on baby injuries showed signifficant influence of baby walker use on injuries in children, even cousing the death. Three studies proved that the use of baby walker is strongly connected with delay in development of walking and crowling (the use of baby walker for 24 hours delays development of independent walking for 3,3 days and 3,7 days in development of independent standing), as well as in development of abnormal walking schema. Beside this, children that were using baby walker did not hava the possibility to investigate the environment in apropriate way and learn how to adjust to the environment through motor and sensory skills. One of the studies prowed the influence of baby walker use on development of calf muscle contractures (m. Triceps surae) and motor development which mimic spastic diplegia..

CONCLUSION: Although the investigated studies showed the results in favour of fact that the use of baby walker during the early childhood period have negativ impact on psyhomotor development of children, it would be recomended to perform a bigger research in which the bigger sample of children which used baby walker would be covered and more thorough analysis of motor functions would be performed and compared with subjects that did not use the baby walker.

**Key words: baby walker, psychomotor development**

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