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Patient-perceived barriers and facilitators to weight-bearing with a lower-limb circular external fixator

Crouse, Megan

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A description of the Griffiths III scores in a cohort of South African Children at 9 months of age

A study for research publication in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, Child Health Neurodevelopment at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Authors:

1. Dr Megan Anne Page
MBCHB (UCT); DCH(SA)
Student number: 1226991
Email: drmeganpage@gmail.com
Tel: 082 510 5542

2. Associate Professor Barbara Laughton (Supervisor 1)
MBCHB(UCT); DCH(SA): FCPaed (SA); MSc Neurodevelopment (Wits) PhD (SU)
Developmental Paediatrician Family Centre for Research with Ubuntu, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University
Email: bl2@sun.ac.za
Tel: +27 21 938 4987 / Fax: +27 21 938 4228

3. Dr Jacqueline Kim Bezuidenhout (Supervisor 2)
MBCHB(UP); DCH(SA): FCPaed (SA); Cert of Development (2015); MSc Neurodevelopment. Senior lecturer, Department of Paediatrics, School of Clinical Medicine University of Witwatersrand.
Email: jacqui.bez@mweb.co.za
Tel: 082 466 4467

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Abstract: (word count: 250)

Background: The Griffiths Mental Developmental Scales (GMDS) are a developmental tool commonly used in South Africa. The most recent version, the GMDS III (Griffiths III) was standardised in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Ireland and published in 2016. No data on the performance of South African children on the Griffiths III is currently available. **Objectives:** 1) To describe the neurodevelopmental scores using the Griffiths III, demographics and confounding variables, in children 8-10 months of age, living in an urban setting in Cape Town, South Africa. 2) To compare the scores between children HIV exposed and uninfected (CHEU) and children HIV unexposed and uninfected (CHUU). **Method:** This is a sub-study, a retrospective cross-sectional data analysis of 85 infants with completed Griffiths III assessments at 8-10 months of age on a prospective, longitudinal descriptive study describing neuroimaging and neurodevelopmental outcomes (31 CHUU and 54 CHEU). Descriptive statistics, independent sample t-tests and Chi square tests were used. **Results:** Across all Griffiths III subscales, South African (SA) infants tested between average and very superior ranges in raw and quotient scores and between 63rd and 76th percentiles. They outperformed the UK normative sample. Caregivers of CHUU's highest level of education was significantly higher than caregivers of CHEU (p = 0.002). CHUU scored higher on the eye and hand coordination scale compared CHEU (p=0.02). **Conclusion:** Due to favourable developmental scores achieved, the revision of the Griffiths Scales to the Griffiths III is likely to have clinical use in young infants in South Africa.