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Neurodevelopmental Problems and Neurometabolic Disorders in Childhood

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Message from the Guest Editor

Contrary to neurodevelopmental problems, neurometabolic disorders have a progressive clinical course, and most of them belong to rare (orphan) disease. They result from genetically determined abnormalities of enzymes with metabolic consequences affecting the development or functioning of the nervous system. Inborn errors of metabolism may present with acute neurological symptoms, particularly in neonates and infants, and if untreated may lead to permanent cerebral lesions or to death. Chronic conditions encompass progressive psychomotor retardation, seizures, sensorineural defects, movement disorders, neuromuscular signs, and psychiatric disturbances. Classification of disease entities may be based on cellular organelle involvement (predominantly lysosomal storage diseases) and/or dominant biochemical abnormality. Central nervous system involvement may be divided according to substance involvement - white matter involvement (leukodystrophies), gray matter involvement (poliodystrophies) or both.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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