Characterizing chemotherapy related somatosensory impairment

Jessica Holst-Wolf¹, Lucie Turcotte³, & Jürgen Konczak¹,²
¹School of Kinesiology, ²Department of Neuroscience
³Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology

INTRODUCTION

Despite a need for characterizing somatosensory impairment in pediatric populations there are no universally accepted somatosensory assessments. The purpose of this work is to use novel measures of proprioceptive and haptic function to characterize chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) in individuals treated with chemotherapy for pediatric cancer.

METHODS

Participants

**Control Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>N Age (y)</td>
<td>N Age (y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion criteria:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no known neurological disorder or condition affecting somatosensory</td>
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</table>

**Chemotherapy Group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion criteria:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no cranial cancer, treated with plant alkaloids (e.g. Vincristine, Vinblastine)</td>
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</tbody>
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Diagnoses: Lymphoma, Langerhans cell histiocytosis, Ewing’s sarcoma, Nodular sclerosis, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, Lymphoblastic leukemia, malignant neoplasms, pancreatic tumor

Equipment

- Proprioceptive acuity assessment: contralateral limb position matching (left)
- Haptic assessment: "active touch" surface exploration of precision tools plastic blocks (right)
- Acuity – curvature discrimination task
- Sensitivity – curvature detection task

RESULTS

This proprioceptive assessment can identify proprioceptive impairment in individuals with CIPN.

No notable bias findings

Precision

- 46% of individuals are > 75%
- 38% are > 95%

Our haptic assessment can successfully identify haptic impairment in individuals treated with chemotherapy.

- 64% acuity thresholds > 75%
- 50% sensitivity thresholds >75%

80% of the variability in acuity threshold is explained by cumulative dosage of chemotherapeutic agents.

CONCLUSIONS

- The proprioceptive and haptic assessments identify CIPN-related somatosensory impairment.
- CIPN-related proprioceptive impairment affects limb position precision, not bias.
- Haptics: The haptic acuity measure is the recommended sensory measure as it was correlated with cumulative dosage of chemotherapy.

REFERENCES