

DYSLEXIA AND DYSCALCULIA: A QUESTION OF DEFINITION & ASSESSMENT IN PRACTICE

TITLE

PRODISCAT PEDIÀTRIC: A USEFUL QUESTIONNAIRE TO DETECT DYSLEXIA

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PURPOSE

The Prodiscat Pediàtric is a free screening checklist for 4-11-year-olds that helps paediatricians identify children at risk for dyslexia early. This quick and effective tool can help prevent student dropout by enabling early intervention.

Created due to late diagnoses, Prodiscat Pediàtric aims to improve treatment outcomes and reduce the emotional and economic burden of dyslexia on individuals and society. Early detection allows for timely interventions and accommodations, ultimately improving quality of life and self-esteem for children with dyslexia.

METHOD

The two-minute questionnaire is administered to parents referring to children between 4 and 11 years in routine pediatric visits. The results are evaluated in less than a minute by the paediatrician at the same medical visit.

It consists of 6 to 11 "yes" or "no" questions depending on the child's age. The questions include pertinent aspects like family antecedents, language delay, phonological awareness or difficulties in naming speed, all of them nuclear aspects in dyslexia.

RESULTS / CONCLUSIONS

A study with 84 diagnosed dyslexia cases and 152 controls showed high sensitivity (94.2% 4-7 years, 96% 8-11 years) and specificity (77.8% 4-7 years, 73.8% 8-11 years). It effectively identifies dyslexia risk (younger) and predicts dyslexia (older). These results seem to show that the tool would be good for population screening, with subsequent confirmatory diagnosis being necessary.

The Catalan Paediatric Society has adopted Prodiscat Pediatric to put it in practice by all Catalan paediatricians, with an expected rollout into other territories in Spain.