The role of anemia in first simple febrile seizure in children aged 6 months to 5 years old

To the Editor

Heydarian and Vatankhah[1] in their attempt to assess the relationship between anemia and first simple febrile convulsion presented a questionable conclusion, as they compared only few hematological parameters between case and control groups, notably hemoglobin, hematocrit, and mean corpuscular volume. However, the 4 biochemical iron parameters (serum ferritin, serum iron, total iron binding capacity, and transferrin saturation), which are considered critical tools in the diagnostic algorithm of iron deficiency anemia (IDA)[2] were not compared. Despite that limitation, the result of Heydarian and Vatankhah's study[1] could be added to the inconclusive data of the role of anemia in first simple febrile seizure in children reported worldwide.

It is estimated that 43.9% of Iranian children had anemia, and 29.1% had IDA.[3]

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Reply from the Author

We appreciate the valuable comments of Prof. Al-Mendalawi regarding our article entitled "The role of anemia in first simple febrile seizure in children aged 6 months to 5 years old"[1].

Iron deficiency anemia can be detected in 42-84% of children in developing countries.[4,5]

In this article, we studied the role of anemia, but not the iron deficiency anemia in patients with first simple febrile seizure. Evaluation of hemoglobin and hematocrit are adequate to detect the patients who suffer from anemia. The serum levels of iron, ferritin, and total iron binding capacity were not necessary to evaluate our work .

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