Aicardi Syndrome

Aicardi syndrome is a rare disorder. It affects only females. Its onset generally begins between the ages of 3 and 5 months. It is an inherited (*genetic*) disorder.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms include:

- Partial or complete absence (*agenesis*) of the corpus callosum. This is the structure that links the 2 hemispheres of the brain.
- Infantile spasms (a form of childhood seizure).
- Mental retardation.
- Lesions (*lacunae*) of the retina of the eye. This is an eye abnormality.

- Aicardi syndrome may be associated with other brain defects, such as:
  - Small brain (*microcephaly*).
  - Fluid-filled cavities or gaps in the brain (*porencephalic cysts*).

TREATMENT

There is no cure for Aicardi syndrome nor is there a standard course of treatment. Treatment is symptomatic. It generally involves:

- Management of convulsions (*seizures*).
- Intervention programs for mental retardation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

The outcome for individuals with Aicardi syndrome varies according to the presence and severity of symptoms.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS (The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) supports and conducts research on neurogenetic disorders such as Aicardi syndrome. The goals of this research are to find the genes involved in these disorders and to learn more about them. Finding the genes could lead to an effective way to treat and prevent disorders such as Aicardi syndrome.

Research is continually being done to learn more about this problem.

Provided by NINDS

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