

[Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) among Japanese children of alcoholic mothers].

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Abstract: **Objective:** This study was carried out to examine **fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) among Japanese children of alcoholic mothers**. This is the first report concerning **FASD** among Japanese children of alcoholic mothers. **Methods:** The subjects were 30 **alcoholic** women who were inpatients in the Kurihama Alcoholism Center and had given birth to **children**. They were subjected to a semi-structured interview by the author. Sixty healthy women who had not drunk during pregnancy were used as a control group, and they also underwent semi-structured interviews. The **alcoholic** women were divided into two groups, 13 who drank during pregnancies and 17 who did not drink. Twenty **children** experienced of prenatal **alcohol** exposure and 40 **children** did not. The three groups; i.e. the 13 **children** of **alcoholic** women who had drunk during pregnancy and their 20 **children** (ALD group), 17 **alcoholic mothers** who had not drunk during pregnancy and their 40 **children** (ALND group) and 60 **children** of non-alcoholic women and their 80 **children** (Control group), were compared concerning the **mothers'** drinking problems and abnormal deliveries, **children's** birth weights, congenital abnormalities of the central nervous system and psychological problems. **Results:** The mean age of onset of problem drinking of the **mothers** in the ALD group was significantly lower than that in the **mothers** of the ALND group, and some of the **mothers** showed **alcohol** dependence before their pregnancies. The mean birth weights of the **children** of the ALD group, ALND group and Control group were 2816 g, 3128 g and 3128 g, respectively. The differences were significant. The **children** of the ALD group had significantly more abnormal birth episodes, developmental retardation and psychiatric symptoms than those of the other two groups. **Among 20 children** in the ALD group, **FASD** was suspected in 6 **children** (10% of the **children of alcoholic mothers**). Six **children** had low birth weights, abnormal birth episodes and psychiatric symptoms. **Conclusion:** One third of the **Japanese children of alcoholic mothers** had experiences of prenatal **alcohol** exposure and 10% of them had suspected **FASD** abnormalities.

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