

# Pediatric Insomnia

Dr Reza Orangpour Pediatric sleep Disorders Fellowship







### Case1:

A 9 months old Previously healthy girl was referred for difficulty falling asleep.

Her parents complaint that she requires rocking and a pacifier to go to sleep and wakes up frequently during the night when her pacifier falls out of her mouth.





# Quantity of Sleep

- With aging gradually night sleep increase and day sleep decrease.
- After 3 years old (from 4 years old) child does not need nap.
- Approximately 0-2y  $\longrightarrow$  60% S 40% W  $2-5y \longrightarrow S=W$ 5-18y 40% S 60% W



### Prevalence

Different epidemiological studies indicate that up to 50% of children experience a sleep problem.

- Vietnam and thailand: 10%
- United States and Australia: 25-30%
- China and Taiwan:75%
- Iran: 80%

Complex combination of <u>biological</u>, <u>circadian</u>, <u>neurodevelopmental</u>, <u>environmental</u>, <u>cultural</u> and <u>behavioral</u> variables.

Late onset sleep usually more than 20 minutes and exactly more than 30 minutes is pathologic





## R/O Limit-Setting

- Bedtime refusal
- Inadequate reinforcement of parents or caregiver for bedtime setting that resulting in the child stalling or refusing to go to bed at appropriate time.
- parents allow infant or child to sleep in their bed when the child refuses to sleep or rocking him/her.
- Allowing the child to fall asleep while watch TV in the living room.
- When limits are not set and enforced or even enforced sporadically, sleep will be delayed, insufficient and inadequate.

## Management for limit-setting

### Sleep habits:

- Establish a setting for bedtime
- Institute bedtime fading
- Evaluate daytime sleep habits
- Establish a consistent bedtime routine
- Provide transitional objects(>9m)
- Exposure to morning bright light
- Guideline for parents



## R/O Sleep Onset association Insomnia

• Characterized by the childs inability or unwillingness to fall asleep or return to sleep in the absence of specific conditions such as a parent rocking the child to sleep, watching TV, feeding, and presence of parents in the room. (Sleep Accessories)



# Night waking in early infancy

- By 3 months full term, babies are capable of sleeping through the night and have circadian rhythm.
- We have not INSOMNIA under 6 months old
- Infant and children typically arouse briefly an average of 2 to 6 times/night. Parents should allow infants to self-sooth themselves.
- Infants after 6 months don't need night feeding(4-6 hr)

Child wakes — cries — mother intervention and feeding repeat night crying — each time quick reward — establish of reflex — irritability and fatigue of parents — depression

- Temper tantrum and easy or difficult child negatively correlated with total sleep duration
- Sensory threshold, greater response to daytime stimulus or more response to stimulus at night



# Pediatric Insomnia Diagnosis Criteria

### A: one or more of the following:

- Difficult initiation
- Difficult maintaining
- Waking up earlier than desired
- Resistance for going to bed on appropriate schedule
- Difficult sleeping without parent intervention



## Pediatric Insomnia Diagnosis Criteria

### B: one or more of the following:

- Fatigue, Malaise
- Attention, Concentration, Memory impairment
- Mood disturbance
- Daytime Sleepiness
- Behavioral Problems
- Reduced energy and motivation
- Concern about or dissatisfaction with sleep

# Pediatric Insomnia Diagnosis Criteria

- C: Reported sleep-wake complaints can not be explained purely by inadequate opportunity for sleep (enough time for sleep, safe environment)
- D: Sleep disturbance and associated daytime symptoms occur for at least 3 times per week
- E: Sleep disturbance and associated daytime symptoms occur for at least 3 months.
- F: Is not explained by another sleep disorders

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- Separate bed from birth
- Separate room from 1 year old

Co sleeping is a routine in 35% of white and 70% of black families

- In Iran 55.9%
- Side effects:
- more SWS and less REM sleep during night

Excessive breast feeding (alternative for pacifier) excessive nocturnal fluids



- Night waking in infants is 3 to 8 times/night BUT Infants from 7-12 months do not need physiologic feeding during night
- Diapers are heavily soaked by morning
- BMF more than 2 times per night and more than 3 minutes suggest excessive nocturnal fluids intake.
- Treatment: gradually discontinue over 2 weeks

### INSOMNIA IN THE FIRST YEAR

- Colic: Paroxysms of irritability or crying lasting more than 3 hours a day, occuring more than 3 days per week, and continuing for more than 3 weeks
- Food allergy
- High 5HT levels in the first 3 months then increase of urine 5-HIAA
- 5HT and MLT have different effects on bowel muscles
- Serotonin contracts while MLT relaxes
- MLT at birth is high and derived from placenta circulation, then reduced and between 1-3 month increases gradually, and after 3 months circadian rhythm secretion starts.



## Genetic Predisposition

- Family history was the second strongest predictive factor in insomnia: vulnerable phenotype(LeBlanc et al 2009)
- 35% of insomnic children have a first or second degree relative with a current or previous sleep problem (mostly mothers)(Bastien & Morin 2000)
- Higher familial incidence in earlier onset vs later onset
- Primary insomnia is heritable and related to anxiety, depression and stress-reactivity(Harvey et al 2014)

- Analyzing family history and features of child insomnia to evaluate genetic predisposition to dysfunction of neurotransmitters system:
- Histaminergic
- Serotoninergic
- Dopaminergic



- Serotonergic Dysfunction
- Insomnia, Parasomnia, Headache/Migraine, Depression, Mood disorders
- No difficulties in falling asleep
- Mid-night awakenings
- Dopaminergic Dysfunction
- Anemia, RLS, PLM, Growing pains, Breath-holding spells
- Difficulty in falling asleep
- Nocturnal Hyperactivity( a horse in the bed)
- Histaminergic Dysfunction
- Atopic dermatitis, Milk intolerance, Cows milk allergy, GER
- Difficulty in falling asleep
- Several night awakenings(all night)



- Metabolic disorders
- Endocrine disorders
- Infections : otitis media, parasites
- Food allergies, Cows milk allergy
- Medications:
  - \*Hypnotics
  - **Antihistamines**
  - Sedatives
  - **❖**Benzodiazepin
  - \*Antibiotics
  - **❖**Muscle Relaxants



#### Neurologic Disorders

- Primary Neurological disorder
- Medications or Nocturnal Seizures
- ADHD: Night time awakening and restless sleep, Motor activity during nights, OSA, Treatment with Stimulants

#### Chronic Illness

- Painful illness: including fibromyalgia, rheumatologic disorders, musculoskeletal pain, functional abdominal pain, headache and migraine, cancer, spasm in CP
- Asthma
- DM
- GERD
- Eczematous Dermatitis

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## Consequences of Insomnia

- Negative functional outcomes including sleepiness, inattention, other cognitive and behavioral deficits
- Psychiatric outcomes such as depression and self-harm behaviors
- Health outcomes such as obesity and metabolic consequences
- Significant impact on families with negative effects on daytime function and family stress





# Differential diagnosis

- OSA
- PLMD
- Circadian Rhythm Disorders e.g. DSWPD
- Poor Sleep Practice
- Life Style Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Short Sleeper (Sleep is short but normal without specific complaint and daytime sleepiness or poor performance)
- Chronotypic Sleep (Body Clock Type)
  - ➤ Morning Chronotype as larks(early riser)
  - Evening Chronotype as Owl (Late sleeper)



- Process S maintain sleep
- Synchronization of these process with light-dark condition, occupational situation, social behavior, temperature and ...make our sleep





- R/O clinical problems
- Special attention to developmental landmarks and CNS
- Sleep history
- Sleep Diary



- Actigraphy
- PSG (r/o OSA & PLMD)



#### Refer to Sleep Specialist

- ☐Persistent or severe bedtime issues
  - ☐Parasomnia with sleep disrupt
- Association with medical, psychiatric and or developmental conditions
  - □Circadian rhythm disorders



## Insomnia Treatment

- Treat Underlying causes
- **♦**Sleep hygiene
- **❖**Behavioral Interventions
- Limited use of hypnotics always associated with behavioral techniques



# Sleep Hygiene

- Infants and children should be put to bed awake
- Bedtime and wake time should remain as consistent as possible
- Naps should be timed early enough in the afternoon so as to allow for adequate sleep pressure to accumulate by bedtime
- Enhance morning light exposure and limit light exposure in the evening, including light from TV, video games, computer screens to reinforce physiologic circadian and melatonin rhythm
- Avoid chocolate, energy drinks or caffeinated beverages in the evening



## AVOID at bedtime

- ORocking and allow to fall asleep on the parents arms
- o Touch hair, hands or other mothers body parts
- oFall asleep out of bed
- OPut in the car in order to facilitate falling asleep
- OGive pacifier or eat while falling asleep
- Administer herbal infuse



## Behavioral Therapy

#### Has two main components

- Modifying parental cognition on their childs sleep behaviors and needs
- Modifying parental behaviors and responses to the child in an attempt to modify the childs learned responses, expectations and behaviors
- EXTINCTION
- GRADUATED EXTINCTION
- POSITIVE BEDTIME ROUTINES
- POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT
- SCHEDULED AWAKENINGS
- PREVENTIVE EDUCATION



#### **EXTINCTION**

- Parents help their children to establish self-soothing skills (put them to bed drowsy not asleep)
- Parents do not respond to their childs attempt for reengagin
- Parents must ignore their child s cries every night, no matter how long it lasts

**GRADUATED EXTINCTION** 

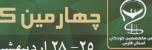
### POSITIVE ROUTINES

- Parents develop a bedtime routine by quiet activities that the child enjoys.
- Faded bedtime with response cost involves taking the child out of bed for prescribed periods of time
- Bedtime is also delayed to ensure rapid sleep initiation.
- Once the behavioral chain is well established and the child is falling asleep quickly, the bedtime is moved earlier by 15-30 min over successive nights until a pre established bedtime goal is achieved.



### SCHEDULED AWAKENING

- In children with frequent awakening at night
- Awaken their child approximately 15-30 min before typical spontaneous night waking.
- As the treatment progresses, the time between scheduled awakenings is increased until eventually there are no awakenings.



### Are CBT interventions as effective as reported?

Only CBT Overally 40-50% are successful

Reason?

Parental Resistance



## Pharmacological Treatment

- Improve symptoms rather than eliminate them
- Useful for attenuation of symptoms in short term
- Close monitor
- Avoid abrupt withdrawal
- Don't wait too long
- Always in association of CBT

Indications: medical-psychiatric-developmental

- Iron (ferritin>50)
- Vit D
- Antihistamines (effective in sleep onset but ineffective in sleep maintenance)
  - ❖ Diphenhydramin 0.5 mg/kg
  - ❖ Hydroxyzin 1 mg/kg
- Melatonin(high efficacy in reducing sleep latency but low efficacy in total sleep time)
  - ❖ 0.5-5 mg 1 hr before bedtime
  - ❖ Duration: individualize
  - \*Headache, somnolence, hypo/hypertension, dizziness, nausea, gonadal supression, risk of seizure and MI,
  - ♦ Max dose: <40kg 3mg >40kg 5mg
- Zolpidem 5-10mg
- Trazodone 1mg/kg
- Clonidine 0.05-0.1 mg/kg
- Clonazepam 0.25-0.5 mg/kg
- Gabapentin 3-5 mg/kg
- Doxepin

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• L-5-HTP

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- Difficulty in falling asleep
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  - Iron, Gabapentin

- Histaminergic Dysfunction
- Atopic dermatitis, Milk intolerance, Cows milk allergy, GER
- Difficulty in falling asleep
- Several night awakenings(all night)
- Antihistamine, MLT



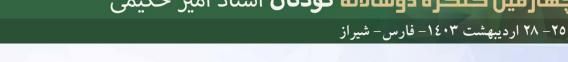


### Case 2

• A 14 years old adolescent boy with no significant medical history referred for insomnia. He tries to sleep at 11:00 pm but it takes several hours to fall asleep on weekends. He goes to bed at 2:00am and wakes up at 10:00 am.



- Delayed sleep wake phase disorder (DSWPD)
- Usually in adolescent
- Usually due to failed synchronization of circadian rhythm with environmental condition
- Usually owl sleeper BUT poor academic and professional performance due to frequent absenteeism
- Usually weekend oversleep
- Increased consumption of caffeine
- Evening or night preference
- Evaluation by sleep diary or actigraphy
- Two targets in treatment: 1-shifting the sleep —wake schedule to an earlier time 2-maintaining the new schedule
- Treatment only when major shifting >3hr( avoid nap, bright light therapy, MLT,...)



## Case 3

• A 7 years old boy with increased sleep latency referred for restless sleep. His parents report that he forgets his school things at school

Pediatric Congress Professor Amirhakimi



#### ADHD

• Difficulties in going to sleep, Frequent awakenings, Dream content is more negatively colored, Motor restlessness during sleep, Excessive daytime sleepiness, Nocturnal enuresis, Sleep hyperhidrosis, Sleeprelated breathing problems, Difficulty waking up in the morning

Lighter Sleep, Parasomnia(Disorders of Arousals)

Treatment: good sleep hygiene, CBT, Ritalin, Iron, Modafinil,...

