

LEARNING AND MEMORY IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH PERINATAL HIV

Learning and memory are very important as children grow up and go to school, work, and become more independent. Research has found that some adults with HIV have trouble learning information and remembering it. We wanted to find out if this is also true for children born with HIV, and especially for children who had been very sick from their HIV at some point (with an AIDS diagnosis).

WHO PARTICIPATED

-   **128** children with HIV without an AIDS diagnosis
-   **45** children with HIV who had an AIDS diagnosis
-   **85** children born exposed to HIV, but uninfected

A total of **258** youth ages 9 - 19 at 8 AMP sites participated in this Memory Substudy.

Only children who speak English were included because the tests are in English. Children who speak more than one language could participate.

WHAT WE DID



An examiner gave the children two tests:

- In the first test, children were asked to memorize a list of words they heard three times. Later, they were asked without warning to repeat the list and pick the words out of a long list.
- In the second test, children had to draw shapes from memory. Later, they were asked to remember the shapes when they were mixed in with others.

WHAT WE FOUND



Children with lower T-cell counts had more trouble than other children with remembering words.



We found that most children got average scores on the learning and memory tests. Some children had more trouble, though. Children who had been sicker from their HIV (diagnosed with AIDS) in the past had more trouble than other children with remembering shapes.

WHAT WE LEARNED

This study shows how important it is for children with HIV to take their medicines and stay healthy to support their memory.



Children born to mothers with HIV are mostly able to learn and remember as well as other children. However, children who have HIV and were very sick at some point have more trouble. This helps us understand what kind of support to give them at home, school, and in the clinic to better support their learning and memory.