Early Intervention and Follow-up program among children with Cerebral Palsy in Moldova.

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Aim: To study whether Early Intervention Services (EI) and Follow-up program (FU) influence the function of children with cerebral palsy (CP) in Moldova.

Methods: Records from 351 children with CP in Moldova born during 2009 and 2010 were retrieved from hospital and orphanage archives between 1st of July 2016 to 30th of September 2017. We investigated the proportion that was enrolled in EI and FU at the Early Intervention Centre Voinicel and Institute of Mother and Child. Logistic regression analyses were applied to calculate crude and adjusted odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI), for outcomes in children enrolled and not enrolled in EI and FU

Results: Among all children with CP, 166 (47%) were enrolled in EI and FU. Of those born extremely preterm (GA ≤31 GA), 46 (90%) were enrolled, compared to 97 (39%) of the 250 children born at term. Among 110 non-walking children with CP, 82 (74%) were enrolled into EI and FU, compared to 84 (35%) of 241 walking children.

There was no statistically significantly difference in associated impairment outcomes between the total groups enrolled or not enrolled in EI and FU. However, the sub-group analyses showed that all children with CP regardless of GMFCS level, had two times less contractures compared to those not enrolled (OR =2.124 (95% CI 1.457-3.097), p<.000).

Conclusion: In Moldova EI and FU seem to be offered mostly to extremely preterm children with CP and to non-walking children. The results indicate a decreased risk for contractures in these children.