

Carpe Diem – Seize the Day Blog

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Are genetics to blame for Febrile Seizures? Seven newly discovered genes were associated with febrile seizures in children as identified in a study by Findsvia Unsplash / Kelly Sikkema. In this study it was found that there may be a genetic reason why some children are more prone to febrile seizures. Febrile seizures can be seen commonly in children, and they can be quite terrifying for parents. While they are typically considered “mild” they are still something that parents would like to avoid for their children. Fever in children is common, and there can be many reasons why a child would come down with a fever. When a fever spikes too fast, it can cause a febrile seizure, and this is why a lot of parents think it is important to give their children medications to bring a fever down and keep it under control. The health of a child will always be a parent's top priority.

This study was an international study that found seven new genes that were associated with febrile seizures in children. Febrile seizures effect up to 5% of children, and while they typically only occur once or a few times in a child's life; 7% of those children do go on to develop epilepsy.

Researchers state that their results are important for looking at an explanation as to why some children develop febrile seizures, and why others do not. Julie Werenber Dreier stated that it is clear to them that there is a genetic link for children who are more prone to fevers and convulsions due to a fever. They found that children who do have a genetic link are more likely to be younger the first time they have a febrile seizure and more likely to be hospitalized due to the febrile seizure. They state that if those two things happen, chances are the child is genetically predisposed for a febrile seizure.

Since the seven genes have been found to be linked to febrile seizures, if a child has one of them, they may be at a smaller increased risk. However, the more genes they have, the higher risk they are. This is also what led them to uncover that there is a link with epilepsy as the genes that are linked with febrile seizures are the same genes that are linked with epilepsy. This study is important because it can tell medical experts what to watch out for, now and as the child ages.

Editor's Note: The Carpe Diem – Seize the Day Blog will be distributed and posted weekly. Always remember – CARPE DIEM – SEIZE THE DAY!

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