Chorea is a movement disorder characterized by fleeting, involuntary, irregular, non-rhythmic movements that flow through the body in a dance-like motion. There is a broad spectrum of etiologies for chorea in children, and this spectrum has not been sufficiently researched.

**OBJECTIVES**

To study the clinical features, associated neurological findings, etiologies, and medical management of pediatric patients with chorea.

**METHODS**

After obtaining IRB approval, all patients aged 18 years and below who carried the diagnosis of chorea between 2000 and 2012 were identified from our medical record database. A retrospective chart review was done and patient's demographics, clinical features, EEG, neuroimaging, etiologies, response to treatment and follow up data were collected.

**RESULTS**

Out of 128 patients, 117 (91%) had hematological and biochemical workup. Screening metabolic work up (serum amino acids, ammonia, carnitine, urine organic acids, and blood lactic and uric acid) was done in 63 (54%). Muscle biopsy included AED 62% (60), trihexiphenidyl 15% (15) for associated dystonia, Baclofen 15% (15), Antipsychotics 15% (15), Levodopa-carbidopa 8% (8), and Tetrabenazine 3% (3). [Figure 3]. Most commonly used AED’s include Clonazepam 31%, Carbamazepine 17%, Oxcarbazepine 12%, Lamotrigine 10%, Valproic acid 8%, Benzodiazepines 8%, Topiramate 7%, and Levetiracetam 3% [Figure 4].

Follow up was available in 97 patients (76%) over a period of 3-18 months. 70/97 (72%) patients had improved significantly after medical treatment. Trihexiphenidyl worsened chorea, but associated dystonia improved.

**DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION**

Paroxysmal dyskinetic chorea was the most common cause (22%), followed by Sydenham’s chorea (20%) among the children with a known etiology. Kernicterus as an etiology in the past is now replaced by mitochondrial disorders. MRI and neurometabolic tests are important tools for evaluating chorea. Compared to other etiologies, patients diagnosed with paroxysmal chorea and Sydenham’s chorea showed a good response to medical treatment.

**REFERENCES**