IMPACT OF MATERNAL ANXIETY ABOUT EPILEPSY AND AGE OF CHILD ON RESTRICTIONS IN CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES
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PURPOSE
- Parental anxiety has been reported to affect the quality of life and behavioral development of children with epilepsy.
- The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship of maternal anxiety about epilepsy and age of the child with epilepsy on restriction in childhood activities.

METHODS
- Study approved by The Baylor College of Medicine Institutional Review Board
- Recruited English-speaking mothers of children ≥ 6 years with epilepsy and a Full Scale IQ ≥ 60
- Measured maternal anxiety about epilepsy using the Parental Anxiety about Epilepsy Questionnaire (PAE).
- Hague Restrictions in Childhood Epilepsy Scale (HARCES) completed by each mother
- Assessed full scale intellectual ability (FSIQ) using Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV).
- Summarized demographic characteristics using descriptive statistics
- Contributions of maternal anxiety of seizures and age of child to the level of restriction on childhood activities were evaluated using stepwise multiple regression analysis

INSTRUMENTS

PAE
- Parental fears about epilepsy
- 14 item, 5-point Likert scale
- Chronbach α = 0.91

HARCES
- Frequency of participation in common childhood activities
  - Amount of supervision
  - Extra precautions needed
  - Specific daily activities
- 10 item, 4-point Likert scale
- Total score
  - 10 no disability
  - 40 severe disability

WISC-IV

RESULTS
- Thirty-nine children with epilepsy and their mothers participated

Demographic Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean ± SD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>20/19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)</td>
<td>11.79 ± 3.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age onset (mo)</td>
<td>61.64 ± 41.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>WISC-IV-FSIQ</td>
<td>91.24 ± 15.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seizure freq</td>
<td>69.28 ± 148.14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seizure type</td>
<td>Partial: 16, 2º Gen: 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother Educ</td>
<td>14.50 ± 2.28</td>
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CONCLUSIONS
- Both maternal anxiety about epilepsy and younger age of the child were associated with greater parental restrictions on the activities of children with epilepsy.
- Mothers placed more restrictions on common daily activities (playing outside, swimming, going to parties, staying elsewhere overnight) the younger the child.

Means, SD, Correlations (N = 39)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HARCES</td>
<td>19.08</td>
<td>7.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sz freq</td>
<td>69.28</td>
<td>148.11</td>
<td>.214</td>
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<td>PAE</td>
<td>31.69</td>
<td>9.97</td>
<td>.603**</td>
<td>.223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>11.79</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>-.322*</td>
<td>-.085</td>
<td>-.094</td>
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Note: *p<.023; **p<.0005

Maternal anxiety was a significant predictor of restriction in childhood activity (R² = .364, F (1,37) = 21.16, p < .0005)

Age of child was a significant predictor of restriction in childhood activity over and above maternal anxiety (R² = .435, R² change = .071, F (1,37 = 4.527, p = .040)

Relationship of Maternal Anxiety and Age of Child on Restrictions in Activity