

## **ORAL: COMPARISON OF MOTOR COMPETENCE IN CHILDREN WITH AND WITHOUT CHARGE SYNDROME**

\*Melanie Perreault, Pamela Beach, and Lauren Lieberman

SUNY Brockport, Kinesiology, Sport Studies, and Physical Education, Brockport, NY, USA;  
mperreault@brockport.edu

Background: Children with CHARGE syndrome experience significant delays in motor development due to multiple sensory impairments that impact balance, vision, and hearing. Previous research has found that children with CHARGE syndrome are significantly behind their typically developing peers on running, jumping, sliding, kicking, and throwing (Haibach-Beach, Perreault, Foster, & Lieberman, 2019). Objective: The purpose of the current study was to expand on these findings to gain a more comprehensive understanding of motor competence in this population. Method: The study consisted of 33 children with CHARGE syndrome (M = 6.75 years, SD = 2.57 years) and 38 age-matched typically developing peers (M = 6.97 years, SD = 2.27 years). Participants were assessed on 13 motor skills using the Test of Gross Motor Development 3. Appropriate modifications were made when needed. Results: The findings revealed the children with CHARGE syndrome performed significantly lower on all 13 skills compared to their typically developing peers ( $p = .001$ ) with the largest effects occurring for the hop ( $d = .78$ ), underhand roll ( $d = .77$ ), and skip ( $d = .71$ ). The children with CHARGE syndrome were also at significantly lower percentiles for locomotor (M = 2.16, SD = 6.81) and ball skills (M = 8.50, SD = 16.08) than their typically developing counterparts. Implications: The findings of this study align with previous research and highlight the need to provide adequate interventions to children with CHARGE syndrome to increase motor competence and improve overall quality of life.