FACT SHEET ABOUT
CRI DU CHAT SYNDROME

Q. What is Cri du Chat Syndrome?
   A. A disorder present at birth that results in severe physical and
developmental disabilities.

Q. What causes Cri du Chat Syndrome?
   A. Results from missing a piece of chromosome 5.

Q. What are some signs and symptoms to look for?
   A. There are many signs which may include:
      Medical/Physical Signs
      ~ Mental retardation
      ~ Microcephaly-small head
      ~ Abnormal face - Low set ears
         -Skin tags in front of ears
         -Round face
         -Cleft palate/small jaw
         -Wide set eyes with downward slant
         -Broad nasal bridge
         -“Dropped jaw”/open-mouthed expression
      ~ Mewing cry as infant
      ~ Low birth weight
      ~ Feeding difficulties during infancy-including poor suck reflex
      ~ Slow growth
      ~ Premature graying of hair
      ~ Language difficulties
      ~ Vision and/or hearing impairments
      ~ Scoliosis
      ~ Small hands-with single line on palm (simian crease)
      ~ Hypotonia-low muscle tone
      ~ Shuffling gait/Delay in walking
      ~ Webbing to fingers/toes
      ~ Frequent upper respiratory infections
      ~ GERD
      ~ Heart defects
Behavioral Signs
~ Hyperactivity
~ Aggression/Tantrums
~ Behaviors that mimic Autism
~ Self injurious behaviors (SIB) -head banging, self-biting, rumination
~ Repetitive movements
~ Hypersensitivity to sound
~ Clumsiness
~ Obsessive attachments to objects
~ Social withdrawal
~ Many are happy and social

Q. What are some important tips for caring for someone with this syndrome?
A. These include:
~ Maintain adequate medical care by following physician’s orders for medications prescribed and notifying physician of any medical changes as medical conditions can increase behavioral signs such as SIB.
~ Remove or reduce things from environment the person may be hypersensitive to.
~ Control or limit the time period of the obsessive attachment to objects, but pick your battles. A small rubber band may be allowed, but an attachment to a large object may be a problem
~ A well organize routine, with a predictable, calm environment.
~ Use communication tools to introduce changes-calendars, schedules, pictures.
~ Practice in learning new skills
~ Make up or find games that demonstrate the person’s strengths and skills to increase their self esteem.

Follow agency policy.

Source: APS HCQU PowerPoint Presentation – “Cri du Chat Syndrome”

For more information on this or any other physical or behavioral health topic, please call the APS HCQU office at 888-321-5861 or visit our website at www.hcqu.apshealthcare.com.

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