

FASD and the impact of neglect

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Learning Disabilities
Services

Declaration of interest related to FASD

Non Payment Activities

- Medical Advisor to FASD charities
- Scientific advisor to various FASD international and national conferences
- Executive member of the UK FASD professionals network

Paid Activities

- Lead Clinician National FASD Behavioural Clinic (NHS)
- Honoraria received from conference presentations from
 - Pharmaceutical Companies
 - Charities related to Adoption and Fostering
 - Private education consultancies
- No Formal ongoing contract exists with any of the above other than FASD clinic



Studying the impact

- Overlap is common
- DSMV NDPAE explicitly states that other factors that better explain the presentation should be ruled out
- Theory that the outcomes made worse by neglect
- Different systems in the world expose children differing levels of neglect
- Studying this is difficult

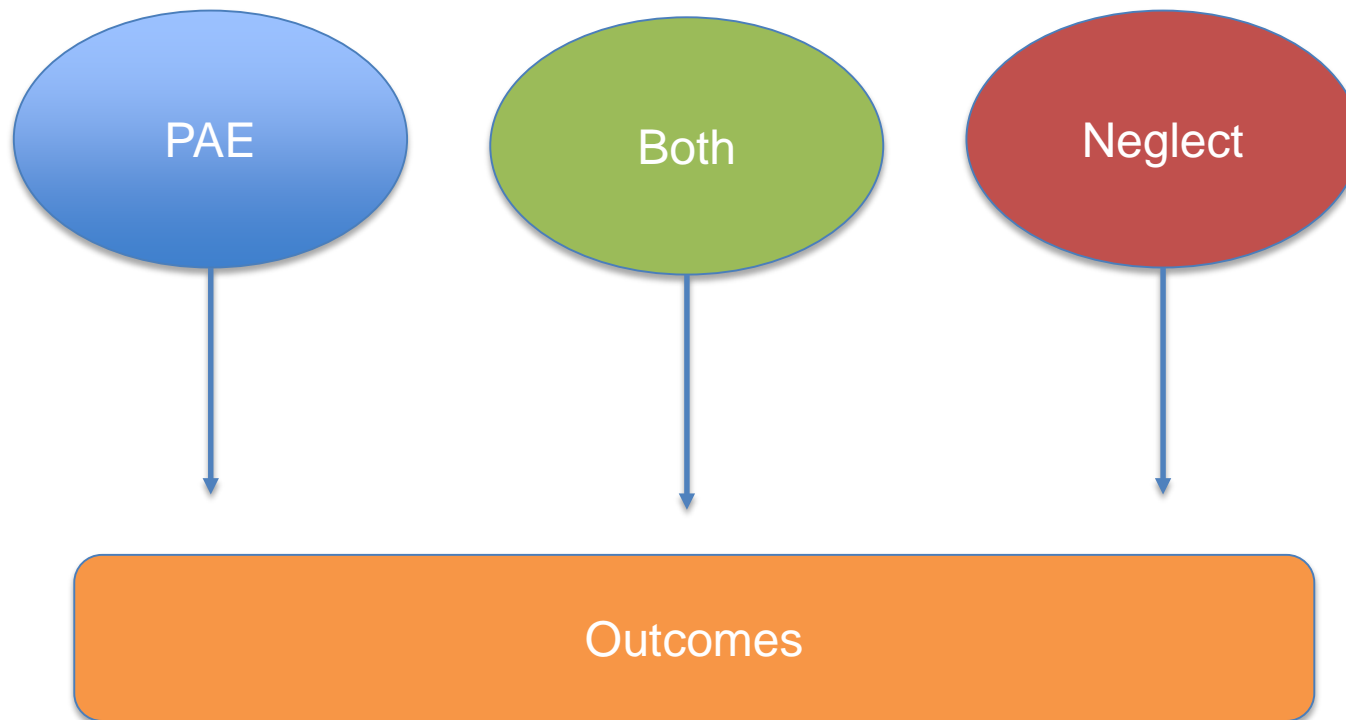


Natural Experiments

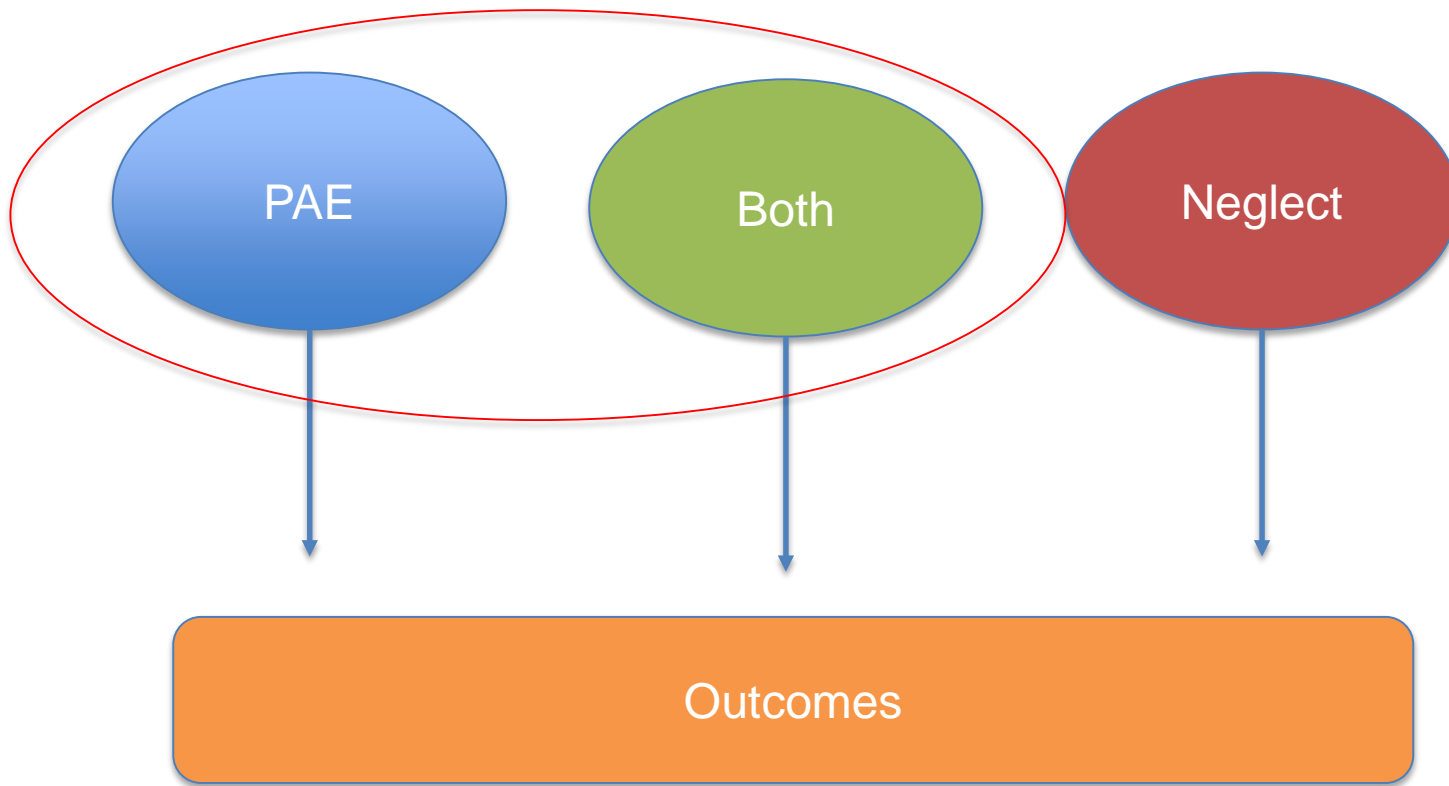
- Experiments that happen by chance
- Get over ethical problems of experimentation
- Not designed but offer an insight to how systems may work
- Have limitations but give information not otherwise available



Exploring the impact of Neglect and FASD



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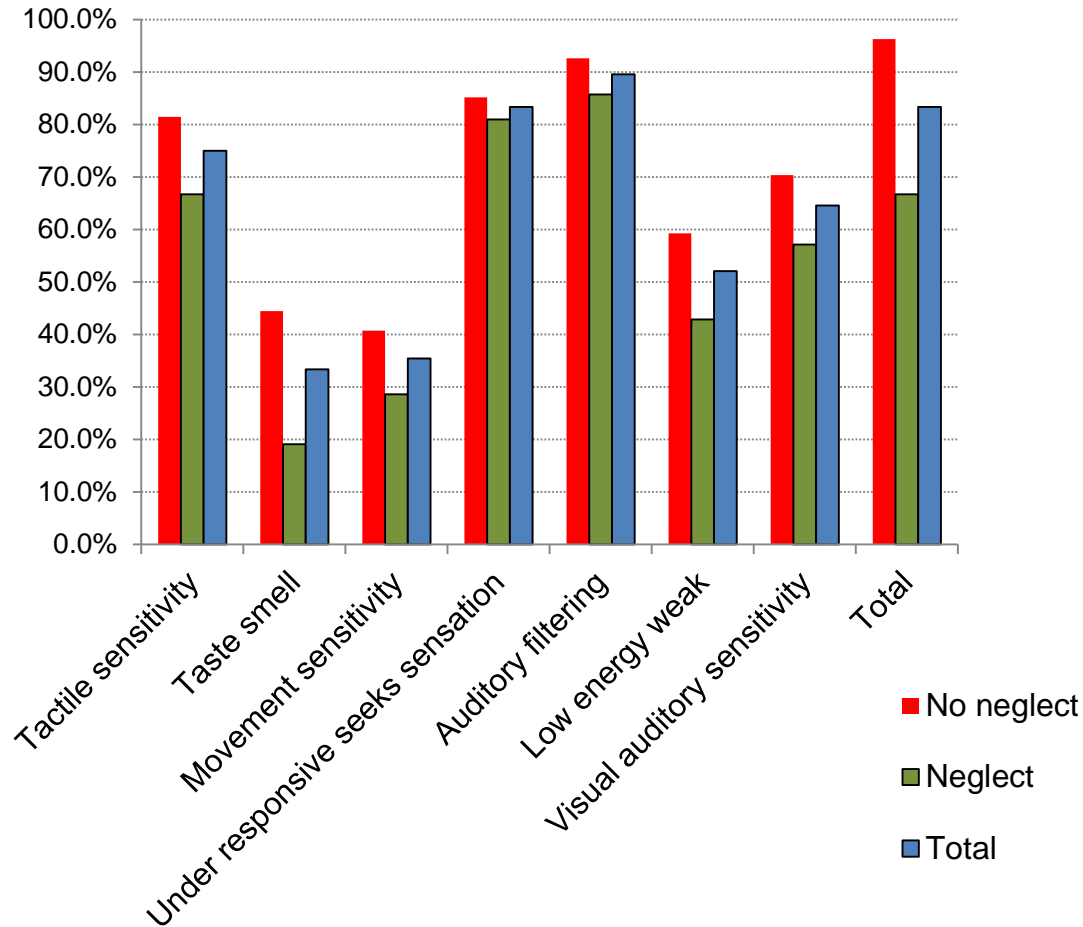
Group information

- The age of the patients ranged from 6 years to 26 years
 - The majority (78%) being aged 14 years or younger
 - Only eight individuals were aged 20 years or over
- Over half (54%) had experienced prolonged (>6 months) neglect
- A third (32%) had no history of neglect
 - Taken into care at birth or with parents who had good parenting skills

Neurodevelopmental outcomes seen (no significant difference between groups)

Neurodevelopmental outcome	No neglect	Some neglect (up to 6 months)	Prolonged neglect	Total
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or social communication disorder (SCD)				
No ASD/SCD	10 (34.5%)	5 (35.5%)	14 (26.6%)	29 (31.9%)
ASD/SCD	19 (65.5%)	8 (61.5%)	35 (71.4%)	62 (68.1%)
Total	29	13	49	91
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)				
No ADHD	9 (28.1%)	3 (23.1%)	13 (25.0%)	25 (25.8%)
ADHD	23 (71.9%)	10 (76.9%)	39 (75.0%)	72 (74.2%)
Total	32	13	52	97

Short Sensory profile (no significant differences seen)



Findings Summary

► Our findings suggest 2 broad conclusions

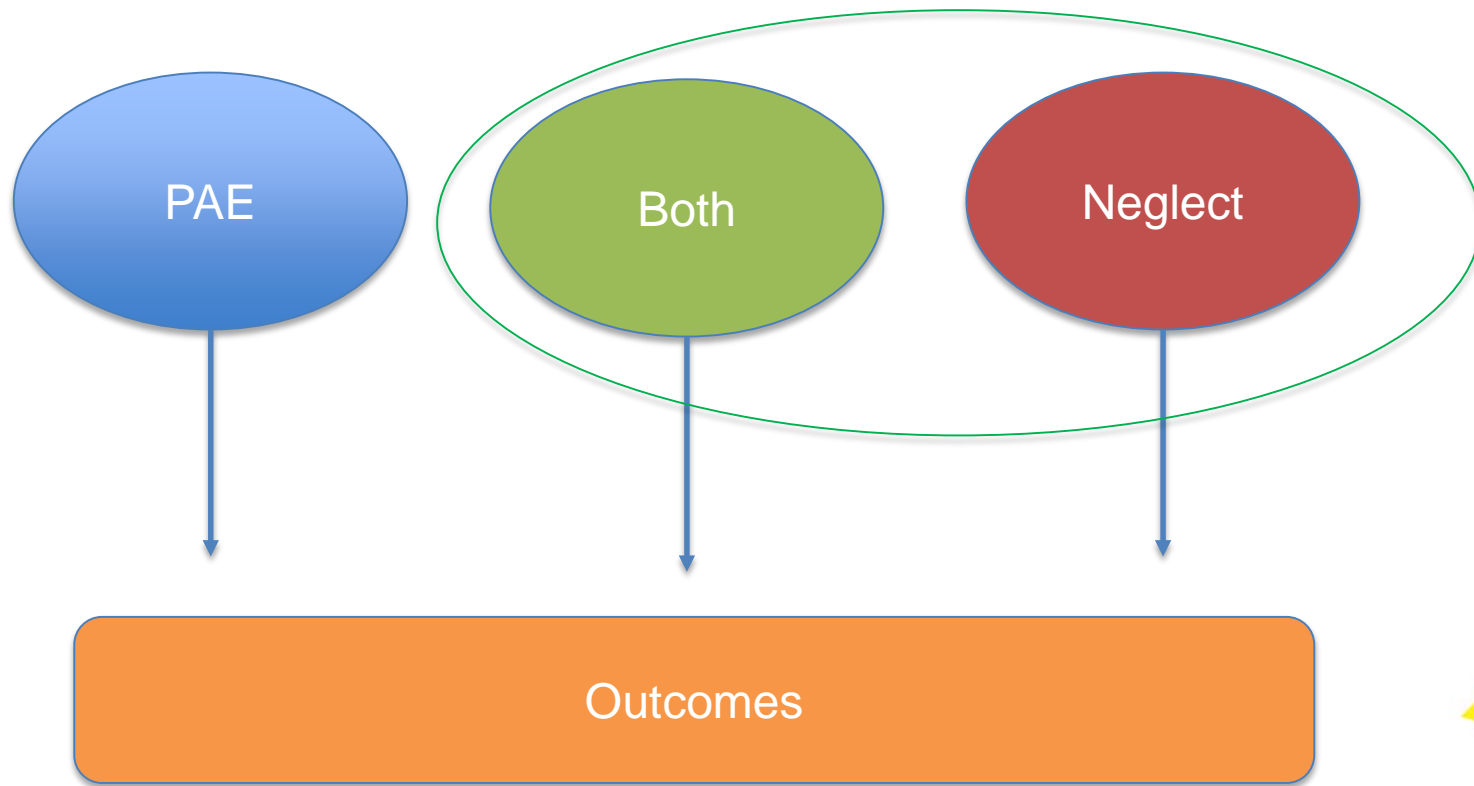
- That Neurodevelopmental disorders are seen independent of neglect
- Neglect does not appear to make the neurodevelopmental presentation any worse

► Limitations

- Numbers not huge but does allow analysis
- Does not have a group of neglect alone
- Does not measure the psychological impact and overlap



Exploring the impact of Neglect and FASD



Henry et al 2007

➤ Specialist MDT assessment of children

- PAE + Neglect
- Neglect alone

➤ Both had been studied but not together

➤ Retrospective study 274 children 6-16 Michigan area

➤ Comparing PAE with Neglect to neglect alone

- severe neurodevelopmental deficits in language, memory, visual processing, motor skills, and attention greater oppositional/defiant behaviour,
- inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity
- social problem



Summary

- The two studies cover three groups although not at the same time
- Similar findings across both
- The Neurological effects appear independent of post natal neglect
- NDD wider outcomes not affected by post Natal neglect
- Need to study all three groups together
- Work being undertaken about the impacts of both
- Has implications for management of the conditions as NDD less responsive to emotion focused therapies.



Questions

