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Iva Prihodova, Iva Dudova, Marketa Mohaplova, Michal Hrdlicka, Sona Nevsimalova

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Childhood narcolepsy and autism spectrum disorders: four case reports

Iva Prihodova [a,*], Iva Dudova [b], Marketa Mohaplova [c], Michal Hrdlicka [b], Sona Nevsimalova [a]

[1] Department of Neurology and Center for Clinical Neurosciences, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic
[2] Department of Child Psychiatry, Charles University 2nd Faculty of Medicine, University Hospital Motol, Prague, Czech Republic
[3] Department of Clinical Psychology, University Hospital Motol, Prague, Czech Republic

*Corresponding author: Department of Neurology and Center for Clinical Neurosciences, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic.

E-mail address: iva.prihodova@lf1.cuni.cz (I. Prihodova).

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Introduction

Narcolepsy type 1 (NT1) is a chronic neurologic disorder with a prevalence of approximately 0.05%. The onset in childhood and adolescence was described in a wide range varying between 5% to 50% of cases [1]. Excessive daytime sleepiness, cataplexy, sleep-related hallucinations and paralysis are characteristic features. NT1 is connected with loss of hypothalamic hypocretin-containing neurons due to presumed autoimunne mechanisms triggered by enviromental factors in genetically predisposed individuals [2]. In childhood