**Germario W Post to week 3 Discussion 1**

**Case Studies in Assessment**

In this case, the patient, Ashley, aged 17 has been referred for diagnostic re-evaluation after being subjected to mental retardation and autism diagnostic tests throughout her life. Recently, she was diagnosed with Kleefstra syndrome and would like to have a confirmation for this diagnosis (Barnhill & American Psychiatric Publishing, 2014). The diagnosis will also help in assessing the genetic risks associated with the condition. Therefore, the diagnosis can only be done with full adherence to various ethical considerations. For instance, the process will require informed consent which can be granted by the patient or guardian in this case. Additionally, voluntary participation in the diagnosis should be guaranteed to ensure that the patient is comfortable with the tests. Confidentiality of the diagnosis results will be guaranteed to ensure that only the patient and her parents/guardians access it (Chancellor et al, 2019). Communicating the results is another ethical concern that will be considered to ensure that the test results are conveyed to the patient in a humane manner.

The diagnostic tests can include cognitive tests using a standardized test. That can help evaluate her intellectual capacity and capability.

Mental status assessment-this can be done in the same manner as the cognitive test. However, the psychiatrist can look at her medical history, physical exam, and mental diagnosis results.

Genetic Testing Registry- This can be done to determine whether the condition is genetic. It can be done by reviewing the medical history of the patient as well as examining her nervous system

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-after the patient is diagnosed with Kleefstra syndrome, an MRI can be done to create a 2-D and 3-D image of the spinal cord and the brain (Akhondian & Fakhr Ghasemi, 2020). This can indicate the level and extent of the disease on the patient.

The referring professional recommended an intellectual disability test for the condition. However, this could not have clearly shown the patient was suffering from Kleefstra syndrome. Instead, a cognitive test was more effective as it showed the patient’s intellectual capacity (Vermeulen et al, 2017). The disadvantage of the approach is that a full-scale IQ test score was no longer required for a positive diagnosis.

References

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