

QUALITY OF LIFE OF PARENTS OF CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN

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Introduction. In Latvia were 684 children with invalidity in 2010 and 921 in 2015. The number of parents who care for a chronically ill child also is increasing. Because of advances in medical care, parental caring tasks are changing. (Hatzman et al., 2008) Parenting children with chronic diseases is highly demanding and has practical and emotional consequences. Young children with a chronic condition are dependent on their caregiver. It is important to address the caregivers' well-being and to identify needs for additional support of the caregiver and the child. (Tweel et al., 2008)

Aim. To compare the quality of life (QOL) of parents of chronically ill children and parents of children without chronic illness.

Materials and methods. Currently 37 parents have participated in the study. To be included in the research group parents had to have anamnesis of child chronic illness at least 6 months. In the control group were parents with child without chronic illness. Surveys were collected in the Children's Clinical University Hospital. QOL was assessed by Latvian and Russian versions of World Health Organization QOL scale (WHOQOL-BREF); domains of quality of life were physical health, psychological, social relationships, environment. Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS 23.0. The research is on-going.

Results. The study included 37 parents. 48.6% (n = 18) have chronically ill children. 94.6% (n = 35) were females. Age of females was 35 ± 7, of males 42 ± 7. Anamnesis of children chronic illness was starting from 6 to 108 months, average 33 months. Self-report of QOL in control group and research group did not differ (4.00 ± 0.82 vs. 3.50 ± 0.70, p = 0.055). Compared to control group, research group had lower scores on psychological (70.18 ± 11.31 vs. 61.34 ± 13.24, p = 0.036) and social (74.12 ± 18.61 vs. 57.41 ± 22.67, p = 0.019) domains of QOL, on physical health (66.35 ± 13.21 vs. 63.50 ± 12.76, p = 0.506) and environment (62.50 ± 13.34 vs. 57.97 ± 13.48, p = 0.313) domains of QOL difference was not statistically significant. Full results will be presented in the conference.

Conclusion. Parents of chronically ill children evaluate their overall QOL the same as parents without chronically ill children. Parents with chronically ill children have impaired psychological and social domains of QOL.