

EVALUATION OF THE ATTACHMENT STYLES OF THE ADOLESCENT CHILDREN OF DIALYSIS PATIENTS

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Abstract:

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS: Dialysis has not only physiological but also psychological outcomes. Not only the patient but the whole family may be affected. This study investigates the attachment styles of the adolescent children of the dialysis patients with regards to attachment processes, quality of life, anxiety and depression levels.

METHODS: In this multi-center cross-sectional study, adolescent children of chronic hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis patients were included. Sociodemographic and Clinical Outcome Assessment Form, Experiences in Close Relations Inventory, Quality of Life Scale For Children, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children and Depression Scale for Children were applied to the adolescent children of the CKD parents.

RESULTS: 34 adolescents (12 male, 22 female) with a mean age of 15.9±1.8 years were included. State-Trait tests revealed a higher score and mild to moderate depression in this population. 7 were residing in a village (20.6%), 11 in small cities (32.4%) and 16 in large cities (47.1%). 12 had a mother, 22 had a father treated with dialysis. There were no differences in test results regarding where the adolescents were residing or their gender.

CONCLUSIONS: Parents undergoing dialysis may not be able to assess their children's psychological needs when they are already under a high medical, social and psychological burden. However, for a better social balance, providing psychological support to the children of the patients undergoing dialysis may improve their attachment characteristics.