

# ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRONIC KIDNEY PATIENTS ON PERCEPTION OF THEIR ADOLESCENT CHILDREN

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## *Abstract:*

**INTRODUCTION AND AIMS:** The concept of self-perception refers to the cumulative values that define an individual, the most important and central element of human behavior. There are two factors that influence the individual's perception of himself; one is the perception of the individual and the other is the society. In this study, we aimed to understand the attachment styles, family functions, coping patterns with stress and effects on self-perception of adolescents in the families of dialysis patients.

**METHODS:** In this multi-center cross-sectional study, adolescent children of chronic hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis patients were included. Sociodemographic and Clinical Outcome Assesment Form, Adult Attachment Scale (AAS), Ways of Coping Inventory (WCI), Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), Family Assessment Scale (FAS) were applied to the parents with chronic kidney disease and Sociodemographic and Clinical Outcome Assesment Form and Offer Self-Image Questionnaire (OSQ) to the adolescent children in their families.

**RESULTS:** 25 adolescent children (8 male, 17 female) of 23 hemodialysis and 1 peritoneal dialysis patients (18 male, 6 female) were included in the study. Mean age of the children and parents were  $16.4 \pm 1.7$  and  $48.8 \pm 6.1$  years, respectively. OSQ of the adolescents revealed  $33.1 \pm 7.4$  points for family relations,  $27.8 \pm 9.9$  for sexual attitudes,  $18.8 \pm 5.6$  for impulse control,  $12.1 \pm 4.7$  for individual values,  $22,6 \pm 7,1$  for social adaptation,  $18.8 \pm 6.6$  for emotional level,  $9.6 \pm 4.0$  for coping power,  $15.6 \pm 5.6$  for body image. Vocational and educational goals were scored as  $13.5 \pm 5.0$ , social relations as  $19.3 \pm 5.9$  and mental health as  $22.7 \pm 8.8$ . 21 of the cases were reported as secure, 1 as avoidant and 2 as anxious/ambivalent in Adult Assesment Scale in the first part and 12 as secure and 10 as avoidant and 2 as anxious/ambivalent in the second part.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Chronic dialysis affects the adolescent children of the dialysis patients. Therefore, rehabilitation and psychological support should be expanded to include the whole family of these patients.