Job integration prevalence in adulthood of patients amputated before 18 years of age and associated clinical-demographic factors. Santiago Teletón Institute, 2012-2013

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Background: Job reintegration is a major goal in rehabilitation. In amputees it varies from 43-89%. Factors related to employment rate are gender, age at the time of amputation, education, prosthetic use, pain, level of amputation and number of limbs compromised. No specific pediatric studies were found.

Objective: To measure employment in patients between 25 and 65 years old with limb deficiencies or amputation before the age of 18 years, and describe it according to clinical and demographic factors.

Methods: the following descriptive study measured clinical factors, employment status and characteristics of pediatric amputees thought a phone-survey designed and validated for this purpose. Patients were amputees from Teletón Santiago, living in the metropolitan zone during rehabilitation, aged between 25-65 years. Those with partial hand or foot amputations or with cognitive impairment were excluded.

Results: sixty-one patients where included. All of them had worked, and 86.9% had a job at the time of the survey. 67% had access to higher education. Of them, 81.1% had a full time job. Only 22.6% wanted job adjustments. Differences were only found between age and employment type.

Conclusion: the majority of the amputees interviewed were successfully employed and had a high educational level. These patients may benefit from national support strategies.

Key words: Employment, congenital amputee, limb deficiency, pediatric acquired amputation.