Congenital spine pathologies in Teletón Santiago: Associated demographic factors, social, clinical and functional

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: In our country there is no information on factors related to independence and participation in children with congenital spine pathology. Objective: To describe the demographic, clinical, social and functional characteristics of patients aged 2 to 18 years with neural tube defects, explore the association between age and neurological level and compare with international literature.

Materials and Methods: This is a retrospective descriptive study were we review the clinical protocolized evaluation forms from the Integral Spine Polyclinic of Teletón Santiago Institute, from children seen between March 2008 and March 2009. 255 individuals with chronic spine pathology met the inclusion criteria. The data was processed using SPSS version 17.0. Association tests were applied between variables based on a χ2 distribution with p < 0.05.

Results: Of the 255 patients studied, 92% of the patients had myelomeningocele, 50% of them with a thoracic level; 58% were women; 49% were in the group of 8-13 years; 82.4% attended school. Thirty three percent of them were obese; 89% used intermittent bladder catheterization and 77% achieve regular bowel movements; 60-80% were independent in feeding and minor hygiene, but less than 40% were independent in dressing, bathing and transfers; 62% used a wheelchair, 50% did not leave their home alone and 30.6% did not have any participation in household tasks.

Conclusion: Demographic profile similar to patients with the same disease and age in other countries, high neurological level prevalence, obesity tendency in the group from 2-7 years, poor independence in more complex daily life activities and social participation.

Key words: Myelomeningocele, children, demographic factors, clinical, functional, social.