Quality of life related to health through Kidscreen-52 in children with physical disabilities and healthy children 10 to 14 years

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Finding out the effect of interventions on patient’s Health Related Quality of Life (HRQL), and it’s comparison to the healthy population, is needed in the field of Rehabilitation.

Objective: Our goal was to determine how the HRQL of patients, who receive treatment at Santiago’s Teletón Institute, differed from the HRQL reported for the equivalent healthy population.

Method: This study compared the results for 32 patients, between 10 and 14 years of age, carrying physical disability (secondary to cerebral palsy, myelomeningocele, and Duchenne muscular dystrophy), and 32 subjects from a control group, equivalent in age and gender. Both groups were evaluated using the Kidscreen-52.

Results: A comparison between both groups showed a significant difference only for the scores in the physical well-being dimension. Throughout the rest of the dimensions, scores behaved similarly for both groups. The friends and social support dimension obtained the highest median (near 60 points) and the social acceptance dimension obtained the lowest score (37 points), for both groups.

Conclusion: The HRQL for both groups differs only in the scores obtained in the well-being dimension. This finding coincides with the presence of neuromuscular-skeletal pathology in the studied group, and could indicate that the rest of the dimensions are affected by elements other than the presence of illness. Further studies, with greater number of subjects and ideally with specific measurement scales, are required to determine the variables that have a bearing on the HRQL for certain illnesses.

Key words: Health related quality of life, physical disability; ages 10 to 14.