

Family Adjustment and Parental Stress Following Diagnosis of Chronic Liver Disease in Children

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INTRODUCTION:

Chronic disease in children might affect family members and lead to impaired family health. The way in which the child and family adapt to the illness will affect their psychological well-being and their quality of life and in turn the clinical course of the illness itself. The aim of this study is to identify the emotional profile of parents following diagnosis of chronic liver disease.

METHODS:

This is a cross sectional study to identify the emotional profile of families following diagnosis of chronic liver disease. The parents who consented separately answered validated questionnaires either during teleconsultation or face to face consult to assess the family function using the Family Assessment Device (FAD) and assess the depression, anxiety, stress.

RESULTS:

The parents reported problems in at least one domain. Majority still reported a healthy condition specifically in the following domains: problem solving (91.7%), affective responsiveness (68.8%), and general functioning (60.4%). All profile of parent have the same depression score, while marital status is significant on anxiety. No variables also turned out to be significant for stress.

CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDATION:

Majority has still a healthy condition in terms of problem solving, communication, affective responsiveness, affective involvement, and general functioning. However, more parents reported problems in at least one domain of family functioning. Majority are normal in terms of depression, anxiety and stress. Psychological support and interventions should be considered in managing patients.

KEYWORDS:

Chronic Liver Disease, Family Assessment Device, Family Adjustment, Parental Stress