

HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

- Cross-cultural adaptation of a measuring tool and practical application –

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Introduction:

The survival of children with cancer has improved dramatically in recent decades thanks to the introduction of multimodal therapies, therefore, interest is currently focused on their quality of life.

Objective:

The main objective of our study was to conduct a research work on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in children with cancer, in order to identify variables that can influence it negatively.

Patients and methods:

To conduct the study, the main step was to choose a tool for measuring HRQoL in children with cancer and perform a cross-cultural adaptation in Moroccan Arabic dialect of the PedsQL. Therefore, a validated Arabic version of the PedsQL was the instrument used to measure HRQoL of a sample of 89 patients followed in the pediatric hematology-oncology service of Rabat. Pragmatic and psychometric properties of the questionnaire in Arabic dialect and the obtained scores were statistically analyzed to identify predictor variables of impaired HRQoL.

Results:

The PedsQL 4.0 Generic Core Scale and PedsQL 3.0 Cancer Module translated into Arabic dialect had good pragmatic and psychometric properties when administered to the patient or his parents.

HRQoL scores were generally poor. The most disturbed areas were procedural anxiety, treatment anxiety and communication, suggesting that included children with cancer found it more difficult to adapt to the care and caregivers than adapting to the disease and the impacts of treatment.

The most important predictors of impaired HRQoL were age, type of cancer, time since the beginning of care, education status of the father, medical coverage and socioeconomic status. Other factors are reported in foreign series.

Conclusion:

This study provides Moroccan caregivers supporting children with cancer an adapted and validated tool to measure HRQoL. It also confirms the negative impact of cancer on children HRQoL.