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QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH IDIOPATHIC JUVENILE ARTHRITIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN BRAZILIAN PATIENTS

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BACKGROUND

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a chronic rheumatic disease that may persist into adulthood. Pain and joint deformities contribute to loss of quality of life (QoL). The aims of this study were to evaluate the influence of JIA in QoL of children and adults with this disease and to establish a comparison between the groups.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional study of 47 JIA patients (20 children and 27 adults) with application of the following questionnaires: juvenile arthritis multidimensional assessment report (JAMAR), health assessment questionnaire (HAQ) in adults and children health assessment questionnaire (CHAQ) in children. Epidemiological, clinical and treatment data was collected from the charts.

RESULTS

No differences were found in gender, arthritis subset, presence of uveitis and fever, visual analogic scale for pain and morning stiffness duration (all with $p > 0.05$). Adult patients required more biologic agents in the treatment ($p = 0.02$) and had higher age at disease onset than children ($p = 0.001$). Functional impairment was considered to be mild and equal in both groups (90% of children with CHAQ < 1 and 66.6% of adults with HAQ < 1). The most frequent social problems referred was absenteeism from school and work followed by difficulties in remaining seated during activities. About 45% of patients in the children group and 51.8% of adults complained having pain in the last week and 40% of children and 48% of adults were not satisfied with the current status of their disease.

CONCLUSION

Adults and children with JIA have similarly mild degree of dysfunction. Almost half of patients complain of pain and were not satisfied with treatment.