

THE SOMATIC SYMPTOMS MANIFESTATION IN CHILDREN

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to explore the manifestation of somatic symptoms in pediatric hospitalized patients and in outpatients with rheumatoid chronic illness. This study offers a scientific contribute in understanding the somatic symptoms in children with chronic illness and the comparison with outpatients. Hypotheses: 1. Children that manifest somatic symptoms have high level of anxiety. 2. Outpatients show high level of anxiety but children with chronic illness show higher severity of anxiety. Subjects: Participants included in this study were 60 patients from 6 – 12 years old, 30 of them were patients of rheumatoid ward of QSUT and 30 others were outpatients. The instruments administrated in the study were: 1. “State trait anxiety inventory of children (STAIC)”, 2. “SDQ” used for understanding the manifestation of somatic symptoms. Data analysis through SPSS, resulted in lower level of somatisation in chronic patients 43.3%, versus 50% in outpatient. Statistical results showed the opposite regarding the level of the severity of somatisation symptoms, chronic patients experience higher level of severity in symptoms 28.6% versus 10% in outpatients. Pain hinders children’s life and that for we have to implement an effective treatment plan. The results of the study confirmed both hypotheses. Findings of the study open a wider diapason in this field by supporting the role of pediatric psychologist in function of the children’s welfare.

Key words: *chronic illness, somatic symptoms, anxiety, hospitalization, invasive procedures.*

