

Parental Communication in children with Cancer

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Background: Parental communication plays an important part in future psychosocial development of the child. Parental communications in children who are suffering from cancer are worth pursuing to understand the psychological milieu and status of mental health.

The objective of the study was to evaluate how parental communication affects the psychological constitution of the children with cancer.

Materials & Methods: Total sixty six children (N=66) in the age group of eight to twelve having cancer diagnosed within the last 3 years had been investigated. The test batteries used were Duke Health Profile, Locus of Control, Adjustment Inventory Parental Sensitization Index and Life Events Scale.

Results: Majority (75%) of the subjects reported negative parental communication at home. Locus of control (LOC) in these children seemed to correlate with anxiety and depression. The home, health adjustment measures were lower in these children with higher hostility, trait anxiety and depressive scores. Higher parental sensitization was evident in these children compared to others. Lower self-esteem was another finding in these subjects.

Conclusion: Traditionally Indian society does not pay much attention to the parental communication method. This study indicates that faulty parental communication seems to have a vital role in psychological encumber in the children suffering with cancer and more attention should be devoted in this matter to ease off the suffering of these ailing children.

References:

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