



Comparison between two measures of quality of life in young portuguese adults after renal transplant before turning 18.

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Objective: The objective of the study was to describe and compare two measures of quality of life of 31 individuals (58% of which are males), submitted to renal transplant before the age of 18, with actual integral renal function.

Methods: We used one measure of general quality of life (the SF-36 Health Survey) and one measure of general and specific Quality of Life for transplanted people (Quality of life Index -QLI- from Ferrans e Powers). SF-36 is a functional measure and the QLI measures satisfaction with various aspects of daily life and the importance of these aspects. The disease group represents 86.1 % of the total population submitted to renal transplant before the age of 18 between the years of 1983-1997 in the northern part of Portugal, at a general hospital - Hospital Geral de Santo António, in Porto. In seven of them the transplant had occurred more than 5 years before the study.

Results: Results show a non-statistically significant correlation between the subscales of the two quality of life measures, with the exception of the subscale of Mental Health belonging to SF-36 which correlation was statically significant with all the subscales of the QLI.

Conclusion: We say that the two measures of quality of life measure different "qualities of life", with the exception of mental health subscale of SF-36 Health Survey, which seems to measure the same constructs as the QLI, because it explains, in a statistically significant way, the results of the other measure. Because the SF-36 is mainly a functional measure and the QLI is mainly a satisfaction measure, we defend that the two measures can be used as complementary measures.