

Self-concept, parental stress in children with epilepsy

HH Chiou

Hung Kuang University, Taichung, Taiwan

Objective: The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between parental stress and self-concept of epilepsy children.

Methods: Forty-nine epilepsy children and their parents were selected for this study. The control consisted of 50 healthy children who were of similar socio-economic status. All epilepsy children were aged 8 to 13 years. The children's self-concept was assessed by Self-Perception Profile for Children (SPPC). (1) Parental stress was measured by Parental Stress Index (PSI). (2) These two instruments have been proven to have good reliability and validity in previous studies. The study children and their parents completed self-report questionnaire independently after researcher's explanations. The relationship between the children's gender, age, age of onset of seizure and families' social economic status and the epilepsy children's self-concept and their parental stress were studied. Relationship between parental stress and epilepsy children's self-concept was also investigated.

Results: Epilepsy children had higher parental stress and lower self-concept than controls. The epilepsy children's gender, age, age of onset of seizure and families' social economic status were not significantly related to the and children's self-concept the parental stress. However, parental stress was significantly related to the epilepsy children's self-concept.

Conclusion: This study indicates that education for epilepsy children and their parents is important for children with epilepsy. Appropriate coping strategy of parents with epilepsy children to lower the level of parenting stress may influence the parenting behavior and thus the children's self-concept.

References

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