

ORIGINAL PAPER

The role of sociodemographic factors in health - related quality of life of patients with end - stage renal disease

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Abstract

Background: Renal failure is a chronic disease that can have serious effects on patients' quality of life (QoL).

Objective: Gender, age, education and marital status were investigated in end-stage renal disease patients. Specifically, the relationship of QoL and mental health to sociodemographic variables was examined.

Methodology: 144 patients in-centre haemodialysis (HD) and continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) were administered the World Health Organization QoL instrument (WHOQOL-BREF), the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-28), the depression CES-D scale, the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) and the Multidimensional Health Locus of Control scale (MHLC).

Results: Female patients reported lower scores in the *psychological* and *environmental* QoL domains and higher scores in the *Trait Anxiety* measure. Elder patients reported higher scores in the GHQ-28 sub-scale of *social dysfunction* and in the CES-D *depression* scale, while less educated patients presented higher scores in the GHQ-28 sub-scales of *anxiety/insomnia* and *severe depression*. Divorced/widowed patients presented lower scores in the *physical*, *social* and *environmental* QoL domains and higher scores in the *severe depression* sub-scale. Regarding health locus of control, females and less educated patients reported higher scores in the attitudinal dimension of *chance*, while younger patients in the dimension of *internal*.

Conclusions: Findings provide evidence that sociodemographic variables, like being female, older, less educated and divorced/widowed, relate to a more compromised QoL.

Key Words: sociodemographic factors, quality of life, haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, renal disease