

Psychiatric sequelae in children with chronic lymphatic leukemia

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The aim of the work: to test the hypothesis whether acute lymphoblastic leukemia its long and hazardous treatment and outcome produce psychological trauma affecting both the children and the parents or not.

The study includes 103 children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and their 97 parents, the age range is 5-16 years, and both sexes are included. In addition, 22 normal children and their parents are included as a control group. The study is done using Semi structured Questionnaire according to (ICD-10, 1995).

It is found that 59% of patients show evidence of psychiatric morbidity, of them, 16% are diagnosed as Adjustment Disorder, the rest of patients show other stress and neurotic related disorders and Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

Effects of chronic illness as a powerful psychosocial stressor disrupting the normal pattern of life of these children could be a possible etiology for such high psychiatric morbidity.