

Psychosocial profile children with B-thalassemia

Esmaeil, A. M.

Suez-Canal Univ., Ismailia (EGY). Fac. of Med.

Thesis ; M.Sc. 2002

Aim: To assess the Psychosocial changes in children with B-Thalassemia as it is the most common chronic hemolytic anemia in Egypt.

Design of the study: case control study.

Method: The study included 35 B thalassemia major children who attended the outpatient clinic of Suez Canal University Hospital and Ismailia General Hospital. They were aged from 6-16 years, both sexes were included. 20 normal children, matched for age and sex were included as control group. Both groups were subjected to: 1) Anthropometric measures (weight and height); 2) Psychosocial assessment including psychiatric interview, Child Behavior Checklist, Depression Scale and Anxiety Scale.

Results: The study revealed that there was significant difference between both groups regarding the social relationships with their siblings, other children ($P<0.05$). Also, there was significant difference between both groups regarding the school performance and school status ($P<0.03$). Thalassemic children also had a significant number of internalizing problems especially for depressed and social withdrawal symptoms ($P=0.01$) and for externalizing problems, significant number of thalassemic children had delinquent symptoms ($P=0.03$). Also, there was statistically significant difference between both groups regarding moderate and severe anxiety ($P<0.03$).

9- Conclusion: children with B-Thalassemia not only suffer from its complication but also suffer more from the psychological burden of thalassemia. Their self image and body image are stigmatized by thalassemia, they are also prone to poor academic performance, impaired social competence and many behavioral problems.