Impact of the social support satisfaction in health-related quality of life in Portuguese children and adolescents

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Aim: This study pretends to better understand the impact of the Social Support Satisfaction in Health-Related Quality of Life in Portuguese children and adolescents.

Methods: A sample of 3195 children and adolescents were inquired. Questionnaires were applied in classroom setting, after a random selection of classes and schools. The psychometric properties of the KIDSCREEN-52 instrument (Gaspar, Matos, Ribeiro & Leal, 2005, 2006, The KIDSCREEN Group Europe, 2006) and the Social Support Satisfaction Scale (SSSS) (Ribeiro, 1999) were analyzed.

Results: By using ANOVAs age, socio-economic status and nationality differences were identified, concerning the perception of health-related quality of life and Social Support Satisfaction. The correlations found between five of the ten KIDSCREEN-52 dimensions and SSSS were adequate (r>0,4), “Feelings”, “General Mood and Emotions”, “Free Time and Autonomy”, “Family and Family context” and “Friends and Social context”.

Conclusions: Age, socio-economic status and nationality differences and correlations results assumes that Social Support Satisfaction is deeply related with well-being and Health-Related Quality of life, all those conclusions agree with common literature. Relevance of these findings for health related interventions with children and adolescents and their psychosocial context and functions will be discussed.

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