



PIGMENTATION

QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHILDREN WITH VITILIGO IN MACEDONIA

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Most dermatological conditions do not imply a direct threat to life, but their chronic and incurable character has a powerful negative impact on the quality of life of afflicted patients. Virtually all aspects of patients' lives can be affected.

Measuring the impact of dermatologic diseases on quality of life is useful for several reasons: it allows patients to express their feelings and appreciate their physicians' concerns, improves doctor-patient communication and also helps in disease management, including the risk/benefit assessment of alternative therapeutic interventions.

Vitiligo is an acquired depigmentary disorder affecting around 1% of the world's population. In 25% of cases it has its onset prior to the age of 14 years. In Macedonia little is known about the effect on QOL of paediatric vitiligo and whether the extent, distribution, and duration of vitiligo are associated with QOL. The primary objective of the study is to measure the quality of life in vitiligo in children by means of Children Dermatology Life Quality Index and study the relationships between quality of their life and the progress/extend of disease when controlling for potential confounding and modifying factors such as demographic, social-economic, cultural characteristics of the patients.

We performed study using two questionnaires regarding children ages 0 to 17 years with vitiligo, including validated questions about body surface area (BSA), distribution, and age of onset of vitiligo, associated symptoms and demographic and social economic factors, and QOL using the Children's Dermatology Life Quality Index (CDLQI). Different distributions of vitiligo lesions are associated with different aspects of QOL impairment. Teenager's ages 12 to 15 years seem to experience the most self consciousness of all pediatric age groups.

Key words: Vitiligo, CDLQI, QOL, depigmentary disorder.

