



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

DERMACAMP: 20 YEARS OF A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION TO IMPROVE EMPOWERMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE TO CHILDREN WITH SKIN DISEASES

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Introduction: Severe and chronic skin diseases cause deep impacts in quality of life specially in children. We noted that, besides these children were treated with the right medications, they did not feel completely well, and frequently showed low patterns of quality of life. Talking to parents and relatives we discovered they have a need to understand about their children's diseases and how to live with a lifelong disorder. Children, and their relatives felt they were the lonely ones and became isolated and depressed. Trying to help them, in 2001 we created a non profit organization called Dermacamp, to promote meetings and supportive groups in the hospital's waiting room, with some small patients, their relatives, just to talk about their lives. Dermacamp also promotes 2 annual camps, to bring these small children together in a camp where they could be only children! Alone without their relatives, together with other children also with severe skin diseases, under supervision of doctors and nurses, with counselors to take care of them, and with monitor to perform activities specially planned to stimulate self-esteem, self knowledge and fun! A survey was applied before and after camp with children's, relatives and their doctors to evaluate the results. More than 1000 children from 8 to 15 old participated and benefited from Dermacamp during those 20 years and expressed that changed their lives! They went to school, are dentists, psychologists, engineers, nurses, teachers! Since then more than 200 volunteers gave a little bit of love to change lives! In 2017 everybody in camp including all counselors and monitors were ex-campers! They tell us that DERMACAMP had changed their lives and they wanted to retribute what DERMACAMP had made for them!

