

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

Apawan Nookong¹, Somying Kosawanon¹, Sudarat Suwantawakup¹,
Chutintorn Chinda²

¹Department of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University,
E-mail: nsank@mahidol.ac.th

² Siriraj Hospital, Faculty of Medicine Hospital, Mahidol University

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Asthma is a common chronic disease among children and leading cause of disability. It affects the quality of life for children. The factors influencing quality of life for children are needed to examine. The specific aims of this study were to examine: a): relationships of caregivers' characteristics (income and education) and caregivers' management behavior; b): relationships of caregivers' management behaviors and children's management behavior and quality of life; and c) relationships of asthma symptoms (use of bronchodilators and nocturnal symptom) and quality of life. The conceptual framework was derived from the Donabedian model. A cross sectional correlational study was conducted to examine relationship among variables. A convenience sample of 127 pairs of caregivers and children with asthma ages 6 to 15 years were recruited from an allergy clinic in the tertiary hospital, Bangkok. Results: Regression was employed to examine relationships among the variables. The results revealed that income and education were related to caregivers' management behavior ($r = .32$ and $.32$, $p < .001$). Caregiver management behavior was related to children management behavior ($r = .23$, $p < .001$). Children management behavior ($\beta = -5.49$, $p < .001$) and use of bronchodilators ($\beta = -.17$, $p = .05$) had significant relationships to quality of life. Caregiver management behavior and asthma symptoms were not significantly related to quality of life. Children who performed asthma management and needed to use bronchodilators frequently had lower quality of life. The programs to improve quality of life for children with asthma should focus on modified asthma management behavior into children life.

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