DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF FUNCTIONAL DEPENDENCE OF THE SUBJECT WITH NEUROLOGICAL SEQUELAE AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF YOUR CARER

Renato Nickel, Andressa P. Lima, Lauren M. Pinto, Elaine J. Navarro *University of Parana, Curitiba, Brazil*

INTRODUCTION: The functional dependence of a subject makes demands not only individuals but also families and society. With the occurrence of neurological diseases such as stroke, for example, that in many cases, no permanent and disabling sequelae, notice the presence of the caregiver during the period of service as a central factor of these subjects. These demands affect the routine, the structure of context and increased care.

OBJECTIVES: This study aims to assess the quality of life (QOL) of caregivers of individuals with neurological sequelae from the level of dependency by them.

METHOD: During the study, 40 subjects were evaluated with neurological sequelae, measuring the level of dependence, through the application of the Functional Independence Measure (FIM) and Quality of Life of its 40 direct caregivers, as assessed by the Short-Form Health Survey (SF-36).

RESULTS: Caregivers studied are formed mostly by the mothers, all informal caregivers, with a mean age of 33.93 years. Showing decrease in QOL in the areas of vitality and pain. Caregivers the individuals with complete dependence showing decrease in QOL in follow-up: pain, mental health, general state health, vitality, physical aspect and functional capacity

CONCLUSION: The role of caregiver is a determining factor in changing the daily routine in families of subjects with neurological sequelae. The quality of life of caregivers is proportional to the level of dependency of the subject receiving care and is a determinant influencing the social context.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRACTICE / EVIDENCE BASE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: The focus of the work of Occupational Therapy, in the context of rehabilitation should also add attention to the caregivers who accompany the subject to the improvement of quality of life.