

THE IMPACT OF CONGENITAL KYPHOSIS IN SELF CARE ABILITIES IN CHILDREN WITH THORACIC MYELOMENINGOCELE.

Daniel Marinho Cezar da Cruz^{1,4}, Maria Cristina de Oliveira^{3,4}, Mariane Aparecida Almenara Maricato Martins², Aline Stoeterau Navarro², Ana Luiza de A. Console Andreotti⁴

¹*Universidade Federal de São Carlos-UFSCar, São Carlos/São Paulo, Brazil*, ²*Ex-Residente AACD, São Paulo/São Paulo, Brazil*, ³*Clínica de Terapia Ocupacional, São Paulo/São Paulo, Brazil*, ⁴*Ex-Terapeuta Ocupacional AACD, São Paulo/São Paulo, Brazil*

The myelomeningocele is the most common defect of the neural tube in children. The acquisition of skills in this children can be related with the body function and structure, environmental and personal factors wich may influence on the domain of activity and participation according to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) from the World Health Organization (WHO). The aim of this study is twofold: First, to compare the performance in self care skills of children with and without myelomeningocele; Second, to identify the impact of congenital kyphosis in the area of self care and investigate possible correlation between self care tasks. Methods: the sample was of 30 children with myelomeningocele from Associação de Assistência à Criança Deficiente, divided into two groups, with and without kyphosis. The average age was 54.73 months. The PEDI (Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory) was used in the data collection. The data analysis used was mean and standard deviation and *Pearson correlation* coefficient were used to compare both groups. Results: There was a deficit in functional skills in all the children evaluated (score < 30). There were significant differences between the groups (p 0.01). The group with kyphosis had lower scores in the areas of personal hygiene, ability to use fasteners and the such. The comparison among items indicated that there is a correlation between some of these tasks of self care. Conclusion: myelomeningocele has an impact on functional skills. The impact is bigger when kyphosis is also present. This information is essential for the planning of occupational therapy rehabilitation programs keyed towards independence in self help skills.