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The mediator effect of social support between burden and quality of life among caregivers of children with cerebral palsy

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Children with cerebral palsy often requires long-term home care by the primary caregivers, which results in great burden on the primary caregivers and thus impact their quality of life. However, only limited studies have explored on the mediating effect of social support on the primary caregiver's care burden and quality of life. This study used cross-sectional descriptive correlational design. Total of 120 primary caregivers for children with cerebral palsy participated in this study. The results showed: (1) six variables were identified as the predictors for the primary caregivers' quality of life: CP children did not receive schooling, CP children's attendance of the special education class in regular schools, primary caregivers' experiences of severe family dysfunction, total care burden, need for social support and sufficiency of social support. The above six variables were significant in predicting the primary caregivers' quality of life ($F=12.37$, $p<0.001$) with an explained variance of 58.1%; (2) Baron and Kenny's mediation analysis revealed that "level of needs for social support", "level of sufficient social support received", "level of need for material support", "level of sufficient social support received" and "level of sufficient emotional support received" produced mediating effects on the primary caregivers' care burden and impacts on the primary caregivers' quality of life. Sobel test analysis indicated indirect effect and was statistically significant ($p<0.05$). The researchers suggest further assessment needs to be conducted on the fulfillment of the social needs and social support among the CP children's primary caregivers.

Biography

Li-Man Lin is a Head Nurse at Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of MacKay Memorial Hospital in Taiwan.

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