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Development of follow-up protocol for constipated children and assessment of its effect on patient management

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Objective: This study was designed to develop a functional constipation follow-up protocol and to assess its impact on patient management.

Materials & Methods: The sample of the study comprised of children, who were referred to the Department of Paediatric Surgery with the complaint of functional constipation and its complications, and their families (n=26), all willing to participate in the study. The protocol was developed by discussing with specialist nurses and doctors. The children comprising the study sample were monitored according to the developed protocol. The children were assessed by using Rome III constipation criteria on the 1st and 12th month interviews.

Results: There was a statistically significant difference in the Rome III criteria of 2 or fewer bowel movements per week, at least one episode of fecal incontinence per week, history of retentive habits or excess voluntary stool retention, history of painful or hard bowel movements, presence of a large fecal mass in the rectum, history of large calibre stools that may obstruct the toilet were observed when the results of the 1st and 12th month interviews were compared.

Conclusions: The results of the study revealed that regular care and monitoring have a positive impact on the treatment of children with functional constipation problem.

Biography

Eda Dolgun graduated from Ege University School of Nursing in 1998. She completed her Master's degree in the field of Nursing in Department of Surgical Nursing at Ege University Institute of Health Sciences in 2003 and completed her PhD in 2010. She served as a Nurse in Pediatric Surgery Units of Ege University Faculty of Medicine Hospital between 1998 and 2002, as a Researcher and Lecturer at Odemis Health School of Ege University between 2002 and 2013. She is working as an Assistant Professor at Ege University Nursing Faculty Department of Surgical Nursing since 2013. She has published several papers in journals.

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