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Anxiety and the quality of life of children living with parental cancer

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Background: Limited research has focused on quality of life (QOL) of children living with parental cancer to discover areas of distress and wellbeing.

Aim: Study the children's HRQOL and how this it's influenced by anxiety.

Method: Survey including 35 children between 8-18 years (mean 13.3) living with parental cancer. .

Results: The children reported higher anxiety than the controls. The children's physiological ($p=.03$), emotional ($p=.04$) and school ($p=.00$) function were significantly impaired, while they scored in line with the controls on self-esteem, family, friends and overall HRQOL. A negative correlation ($r= -.707$, $p<.01$) between anxiety and HRQOL was found.

Conclusions: A one-dimensional focus on anxiety may not capture these children's multidimensional challenges. In contrast, a focus on HRQOL may give important knowledge of the children's challenges, as well as areas where they function well.

Biography

May Aasebø Hauken is an Associate Professor at Centre for Crisis Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen, Norway.

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