The Caregiver of the Child with Cerebral Palsy: The Unnoticed Victim

Date: October 23, 2023  
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Place: Remote

Abstract

The severity spectrum of Cerebral Palsy can greatly impact the caregiver and his or her quality of life. The birth prevalence of Cerebral Palsy has not increased in the world; however, it has not decreased either. Therefore, caregivers need to be better educated and equipped on how to be prepared on how to care for their child or adolescent with Cerebral Palsy. The purpose of this study was to better understand the overall quality of life in the primary caregiver who provides care to the child and/or adolescent, aged 0-17 with mild, moderate, or severe CP. This study aligned with a nonexperimental or observational design, because there will not be an intervention or manipulation of the independent variable (Polit & Beck, 2017). This study ultimately examined the severity level of Cerebral Palsy and the quality of life in the mother and/or father.

What stood out in the results section of this study was that in most instances, the mother and father both report their physical and mental quality of life to be fair or poor. Additionally, as the severity of Cerebral Palsy of the child and/or adolescent increased so did the number of hours spent providing care to the child and/or adolescent with Cerebral Palsy. In addition, as the number of hours spent providing care increased, the overall quality of life decreased.

Through utilizing the results that were found within this study, it is essential that researchers continue to examine the child and/or adolescent with Cerebral Palsy and the quality of life of the caregiver(s). From this point on, it will be vital for healthcare workers, researchers, and educators to better understand the caregiving dynamic as both the individual with Cerebral Palsy and the caregiver age. Therefore, there can be better and more advanced ways to support the caregiver to provide the best care to their child with Cerebral Palsy.