

CHARACTERIZATION OF FAMILIAL CAREGIVERS' IN RELATION TO THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HYDROCEPHALUS (ABSTRACT)*. DISSERTATION. ARACAJU, 2009.

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Background: Hydrocephalus is a disease frequently mentioned in literature, but the caregivers' knowledge about the disease is not well assessed.

Purpose: To characterize the caregivers of hydrocephalus patients; identify the fonts of formation to assume activities how to care; to verify caregivers' knowledge about hydrocephalus; to relate the caregiver' knowledge and level of child complications.

Method: Descriptive, exploratory and quantitative study, using a standardized interview technique. The survey was performed with caregivers at Aracaju University Hospital between November 2007 and August 2008.

Results: Fifty-four caregivers answered the interview. The mean age was 27.3 ± 7 years, with absolute predominance of

females. There was a positive correlation on the number that they had left to work to be caregivers. Twenty-five caregivers (46.3%) received information about how to care and 53.7% learned to take care by themselves. The education level of the caregiver had a significant effect on the knowledge about definition, causes, complications, surgery and the shunt objectives. The knowledge about complications and surgery was significantly bigger in caregivers of children with sequels ($p=0.003$).

Conclusion: The caregivers received little professional information. The education level of the caregiver had a positive correlation to on increased knowledge. Caregivers of children with sequels were related to on increased knowledge about important aspects on hydrocephalus.

Key words: hydrocephalus, caregiver, family, child.

*Caracterização do cuidador familiar em relação ao conhecimento sobre hidrocefalia (Resumo). Dissertação de Mestrado. Universidade Federal de Sergipe, UFS (Área Ciências da Saúde). Orientador: Carlos Umberto Pereira

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