**EVALUATION OF HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY USING QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHILDHOOD EPILEPSY QUESTIONNAIRE (QOLCE - 55) IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL**

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**Introduction:** Epilepsy is a non-communicable disease that causes unprovoked, recurrent seizures. Pediatric epilepsy is known to be interlaced with co-morbidities, deteriorating the Quality of Life (QoL). The assessment of the quality of life is relevant for a comprehensive treatment of children with epilepsy (CWE). The purpose was to evaluate and analyze the various factors affecting the quality of life in CWE using Quality of Life in Childhood Epilepsy (QOLCE–55) questionnaire.

**Methods:** A prospective cross-sectional study was conducted in CWE aged 3 - 15 years recruited from the outpatient and inpatient services of Department of Paediatrics, of a tertiary care teaching hospital in South India. Structured case record form was used to collect demographic data.  The Quality of Life in Childhood Epilepsy (QOLCE–55) questionnaire was administered which is a 55-item questionnaire; the measures categorized under four subscales – cognitive, emotional, social and physical functioning.

**Results:** 86 CWE were enrolled. 48 [55.8%] were males and the mean age was 8.95 +/- 3.09 years. The majority were from middle (39 [45.3%]) socio-economic class and had focal seizures (47 [54.7%]). The overall mean QoL score was 55.044 +/- 2.257. The highest and lowest mean scores were observed in the physical functioning 62.955 +/- 1.794 and in the cognitive functioning 45.745 +/- 2.819. QoL was affected significantly by age of the child. Age at seizure onset, seizure type, frequency of seizure, or socio-economic status did not significantly affect the overall QoL.

**Conclusion:** Children with epilepsy have a relatively withered quality of life and QoL should be a major outcome measure in psychopharmacologic treatment of epilepsy, instead of seizure control alone.

**Keywords:** Children, Epilepsy, Seizure, QOLCE-55, Quality of life