

**Careers and employment in children with congenital heart disease**

*Antoniadis S. (1-2), Zerva M.(1), Antoniadou A.V. (2), Koutis Ch.(1), Baroutis G. (1), Makrogika E.(1), Dionyssopoulou E.(2)*

*Diagnostic Center for Pediatric Cardiology, Athens, Greece (1)*

*Euroclinic Hospital for Children, Athens, Greece*

*(2)*

Introduction : Advances in diagnosis and interventional/surgical management of congenital heart malformations had as a result a considerable number of patients reaching the adult life. The aim was to investigate the careers and employment rate of children with heart problems.

Methods : Data from the archives of 114 patients followed up for 28 years.

Results : Seventy two (63,2%) patients were males, 42(36,8%) females. Males age 20-37 mean 28,5 years, females 20-33 mean 26,5, 74(64,9%) living in Athens. Socioeconomic level of parents was 14(12,2%) low, 82(72%) medium, 18(15,8%) high. As far as their occupation was concerned, 61(26,8%) private business, 62(27,2%) clerks in private sector, 39(17,1%) civil servants, 11(4,8%) farmers, 11(4,8) military/navy, retired, 42(18,4%) mothers were housewives.

The 78(68,4%) had simple malformations, 36(31,6%) complex, 56(41,1%) followed up, 5(4,4%) had interventional management, 52(45,6%) operated on, 1(0,9%) interventional and surgical management, 10(19,2%) more than one operations. Three (2,6%) were primary school graduates, 59(51,8%) high school, 43(37,7%) university, 9(7,9%) technical education. Choice for studies 96(84,2) personal, 8(7%) due to introductory exams, 10(8,8%) at random. Forty nine (43%) were working as clerks in private sector, 19(16,7%) their own business, 9(7,9%) school teachers, 9(7,9%) civil servants, 2(1,75%) sailors, 15(13,2) in other jobs: psychologist, painter, plumber, cook. Choice was personal 19(16,7%), related to studies 22(19,3%), 38(33,3%) at random, 22(19,3%) family business, 1(0,9%) talent. Between 11(9,6%) jobless, 3(2,6%) believed that they couldn't work because of the cardiac problem, 1(0,9%) didn't want.

Conclusions

Heart malformations doesn't interfere in employment and careers. On the contrary the vast majority of the patients 98(86%) were employed.

Key Words : Congenital heart disease, employment, careers.