CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT IN CHILDREN WITH
CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

S. Antoniadis, 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
Euroclinic Hospital for Children, Athens, Greece

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, plumper, 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.