

Abstract

Cushing's syndrome is a rare disease caused by increased cortisol secretion, which is associated with significantly increased morbidity and mortality. Besides somatic signs and symptoms it is characterized also with impaired quality of life. The aim of this study was to find out how Cushing's syndrome influences the quality of life in Czech Republic. 24 subjects with active Cushing's syndrome (18 women, 6 men) aged $39,6 \pm 13,9$ yrs. And 75 healthy control subjects (64 women, 11 men) aged $39,4 \pm 14,12$ were examined using disease specific quality of life questionnaires (Cushig QoL). Answers were statistically analysed using Mann-Whitney test. Questionnaire was combined with narrative and structured interviews. We used so called „A grounded theory” to analyse the data. The results of our study demonstrated impaired quality of life in both, somatic, psychological and social consequences fields. The quality of life of people with Cushing's syndrome was affected mainly by changes on their body, disturbed self-conception, disorder of cognitive functions, emotional disorders, changes of social rolest, fatigue, pain, knowledge about this disease and its medical treatment. These factors overlap. The assessment of quality of life of people with Cushing's syndrome has its purpose in identification and removing barriers, which make one's self-sufficiency in everyday activities and fulfilling social parts hard. It helps solving newly arised problems in work, material needs and social life. Furthermore, it could support one's adherence to treatment.