

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is one of the most common childhood inflammatory skin diseases. As a chronic disease it can have a physical and psychological effect on the social functioning of the affected child as well as his family.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the quality of life (QoL) of children with AD and their families.

A total of 636 children with the diagnosis of AD and naevi, aged from newborns to 18 years and 636 of their parents took part in our study. All participants, according to their age, completed the questionnaires: Infants' Dermatitis Quality of Life Index (IDQOL), Childrens' Dermatology Life Quality Index (CDLQI)- text and cartoon version and Dermatitis Family Impact Questionnaire (DFI).

We gained statistically significant differences in the mean scores between children with the diagnosis of AD and children with the diagnosis naevi. We also gained differences of mean scores in different age groups of patients with AD. The highest and statistically proven score was in the oldest group of children with AD (9,85) then in the group from 7 to 13 years (8,33) and the lowest in the group of children from newborns to 6 years (7,84). Question with the highest score in all age groups of children with AD was the question about: "itching and scratching". There was also proven an influence of the child's AD on the quality of life of his parents with the mean scores in particular age groups: 7,39, 6,69, 7,3.

The study demonstrated and confirmed that AD significantly impairs the childrens' QoL in all age groups and also their families. To the best of our knowledge our study is the first one in the Czech Republic dealing with this problem. We also conducted the first, official validation of the Family Impact Questionnaire into the Czech language. In our results we noticed that there are significant differences in the quality of life impairment in different age groups of children.