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## paper text:

[The Influence of Family Factors on the Quality of Life of Children With](#)

Diabetes Mellitus Type 1 in West Java, Indonesia: A Cross- Sectional Analytic Study ABSTRACT

Background Diabetes is a chronic

disease that has a negative impact on the quality of life

of children. Family should be a support system to help optimize the

quality of life of children with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM). Purpose The study aims to analyze the influence of family conflict, number of children in the family, and depression in children

on the quality of life of children with T1DM. Method The

study employed a cross-sectional analytic design with a sample of 51 T1DM children with inclusion criteria being aged 4-18 years and currently undergoing outpatient care at the hospital.

The measurement of quality of life used the

KINDLR instrument, which consists of versions for children and parents. Depression was measured using the Children's Depression Inventory and diabetes

-specific family conflict using the Revised Diabetes Family Conflict Scale.

Multivariate analysis with multiple linear regression was performed to obtain a prediction model for the quality of life of children with T1DM. Results The mean total scores of the

quality of life for the children's and parents'

versions were  $76.39 \pm 13.27$  and  $78.64 \pm 9.38$ , respectively. The mean score of diabetes-specific family conflict was  $31.03 \pm 9.28$  with a min-max score of 19-50.

Quality of life of children was not different

between male and female ( $p = >.05$ ). As many as 40% of the children experienced depression with a mean score of  $8.28 \pm 5.02$ .

The quality of life of children for the parent-rated version

had a positive correlation with the quality of life

of children with  $r = .463$  at  $p = .002$ . Depression was

negatively correlated with the quality of life of children with

$r = -.287$  at  $p = .025$ . Multivariate analysis shows interactions between family conflict

and number of children in the family ( $p$

$= .017$ ) and depression ( $p = .050$ ), both as the main factors affecting the

quality of life of children. Conclusions /Implications for practice

Family conflict and

the number of children in the family and depression in

children were predictors of

quality of life in children with T1DM. The results of the study

have implications for the importance of nursing interventions in improving the ability of

families of children with T1DM in handling diabetes-specific family conflict and efforts to prevent depression in children so that children can have better

quality of life. Keywords: T1DM, quality of life, depression, family

conflict INTRODUCTION It is

estimated that the number of children with diabetes mellitus (DM) in

the world will experience an increase (Karvonen et al., 2000). In Indonesia, there is no data on the exact number of children with DM.

National survey data suggests that in 2007 the prevalence of diabetes was 5.7%, of which more than 70% of cases were undiagnosed. This estimate hides large intracountry variation

((P., A., & D.L., 2013). DM is a

metabolic disorder characterized by an increase in blood glucose levels caused by insulin

dysfunction of pancreatic beta cells (Curtis & Hagerty, 2002). DM

has a negative impact on children's physical, psychological, social, and

spiritual conditions ((Guthrie, Bartsocas, Jarosz-Chabot, & Konstantinova, 2007 ; Bas & Bideci, 2011) and decreases the productivity

and quality of life in children

(Kalyva, Malakonaki, Eiser, & Mamoulakis, 2011).

Quality of life is an important indicator of patients with chronic

diseases, including diabetes (Katon, et.al, 2008; Murillo et al., 2017).

Health-related quality of life is a multi-dimensional construct that

is built from a

patient's perception of the impact of a disease and its care on aspects of life, including physical, psychological, and social(

Lin et al., 2017).

Children and adolescents with T1DM have a lower quality of life compared to children and adolescents who are healthy,

and depressions are more common in type-1 diabetes (Gendelman et al., 2009). Diabetes in children does not only

have a negative impact on children

but also on their parents (Kalyva et al., 2011; Hirose, Beverly, & Weinger, 2012). Psychological disorders experienced by children will also be experienced by families and vice versa, so that psychological treatment is needed for both children and their parents (Cameron, Northam, Ambler, & Daneman, 2007; Sieh, Visser-Meily, & Meijer, 2013). The success of managing child diabetes is highly dependent upon the ability and skills of the family to provide holistic care for children (Klingensmith, Kaufman, Schatz, & Clarke, 2005; ADA, 2017) because family is a place for children to grow and develop (Dai & Wang, 2015). Health care providers must realize that the management of children with diabetes is different from that of adults so that family presence is important (Silversmith et al., 2005). Depression in diabetic children is a psychological disorder that often occurs and significantly increases the cost of care compared to diabetic children only (Simon, et al., 2005). Based on the above descriptions, there are two main objectives of this study, namely to analyze the influence of family conflict, number of children, and depression in children on

the quality of life of children with T1DM and to

find a prediction model for

quality of life of children. The research hypothesis to be

proven is that the higher the conflict and

the number of children in the family, the lower the quality of life of children with T1DM; the higher the child's

depression score, the lower

the quality of life of children with T1DM. The results of

this study will be useful for nursing in reorienting the focus of

care for children with T1DM and their families,

especially in handling family conflict and depression in children. **METHODS** Study Design The study was conducted with across-sectional analytic design. The sample included a total of 51 children with T1DM who had been outpatients in 2 referral hospitals for the last 2 years, from 2016 to April 2018. The dependent variable is the quality of life of the child version, conflict variables in the family and depression as potential predictors and the number of children in the family as confounding variables.

**Participants** Children with T1DM with the inclusion criteria of being aged 4-18 years and suffering from diabetes for  $\geq 6$  months participated in the research along with their parents. The T1DM children participating in this research were outpatients at 2 referral hospitals in West Java. The children were selected based on hospital medical records. The research variables consisted of

quality of life of children (children's version and parents'

version), diabetes- 2 specific family conflict,

number of children in the family, and

depression. Children's demographic variables comprised of age, duration of illness, gender, education, age at diagnosis, education level, and

number of children in the family. Parents'

demographic variables included age, level of education, and occupation. Most of the parents in this study (95%) were mothers who cared for and accompanied their children every day. The child and parent demographic data collection forms were developed by the researchers as needed. Instruments

**Quality of Life** Quality of life (QoL) of children

was measured using the Questionnaire for Measuring Health-Related Quality of Life in Children and Adolescents-Revised Version

(KINDLR).

The KINDLR is a generic instrument for assessing Health-Related Quality of Life in children and adolescents aged 3 years and older,

which has been revised and reconstructed

(Bullinger, Brütt, Erhart, & Ravens-Sieberer, 2008; Bullinger

et al., 2008). The questionnaire consists of 24 Likert-scale items related to six dimensions, namely



physical health, emotional health, self-esteem, family, friends, and school.

There are three

different versions of the questionnaire for different age groups, namely for children aged 4-6 years and 7-13 years and adolescents aged 14-18 years.

The parent-rated questionnaire consists of one version for parents with

children aged 4-6 years and another for parents with children aged 7-

18 years, each comprising of 24 items in six dimensions. For children aged <6 years,

the questionnaire consists of 12 items with six dimensions. The

use of the KINDLR instrument referenced the instrument user manual (Ravens-Sieberer & Bullinger, 2000). Family Conflict This variable was measured using the

Revised Diabetes Family Conflict Scale to measure diabetes-specific family conflict

based on children's reports. The questionnaire consists of 19 statements. This instrument is intended for children with T1DM who are >6 years old; hence, 3 only 47 respondents meeting this age criterion filled in the questionnaire, while 4 respondents were excluded because they were ≤6 years old. The instrument is a powerful psychometric tool used to measure

diabetes-specific family conflict in families with children and adolescents with

T1DM (Hood et al., 2006).

Depression in Children Measurement of depression in children

employed the instrument of

Children's Depression Inventory (CDI) (Kovacs, 2003) because the CDI is the most established self-report measure of depressive symptoms for children

(Hood et al., 2006). The questionnaire consists of 27 statements. Because the CDI is only intended for participants aged >6 years, the questionnaire was only distributed to 47 children. Respondents'

Characteristics Child demographic variables comprised of age, duration of illness, gender, education, age at diagnosis, and level of education. Parents' demographic variables included age, level of education, occupation, and

number of children in the family. Most of the parents in

this study (95%) were mothers, who cared for and accompanied their children every day. The child and parent demographic data collection forms were developed by the researchers as needed. Data Collection and Statistical Analysis All information was obtained directly from primary sources (children and parents) using the previously prepared instruments and user manuals. Because of age, information bias is possible where respondents do not understand the information in the questionnaire. However, researchers have appointed trained enumerators as data collector. Prior to data collection, the researchers explained about the study to the respondents and obtained their consent. The study was conducted by considering the recommendations of the research ethics committee. Data analysis began with univariate analysis, where numerical data were presented in the forms of mean values, standard deviations, and minimum and maximum values. To proceed to bivariate analysis, a normality test using the Shapiro-Wilk test was first performed on the numerical data, such as

quality of life, depression, number of children, and family conflict. The results of the

normality test show that the variables of

quality of life, number of children, and family conflict were

normally distributed ( $p > .05$ ), while the variable of depression was not normally distributed ( $p < .05$ ). A Pearson correlation test at a confidence level of 95% was subsequently carried out to see the relationships among

the quality of life of children and family conflict, number of children, and

depression. Variables with correlation significance value of  $\leq .250$  were then included in the modeling using multiple regression analysis. The analysis was intended to build a prediction model for

quality of life in children by measuring the influence of

family conflict, number of children, and depression. This analysis was also intended to control the possibility of confounding variables and identify possible interaction variables. All respondents can

participate fully so that all the expected data can proceed to the analysis stage. Ethical Considerations Throughout the whole research process, research ethics were adhered to by the researchers. The research was previously granted an ethical approval from the National Research Ethics Committee No.

31/KEPK/TE/01/VII/17 and permission from the hospitals where the research was conducted No.

LB.02.01/X.2.2.2/12538/2018. All participants, both children and parents, gave written consent before the

study was conducted. RESULTS Demographic Characteristics of Research Participants All of the 51 T1DM children

and their parents were able to fully participate in the study according to the agreed conditions. The proportion of children aged 4-13 years reached 64%, where 8.9% were children aged 4-6 years, and teenagers aged 14-18 years made up 35% of the whole participants. Most children (62.2%) were female, with a duration of illness >1 year 127 as the largest proportion (75.6%), and 17.8% of them had had diabetes for >5 years. The level 128 of education of parents was mostly (71.1%) middle to lower education. The characteristics of 129 T1DM children and their parents

are presented in Table 1. 130 131 Table 1. Characteristics of

T1DM Children and Their Parents No Characteristics Quality of Life (Children's Version)  $x \pm SD$  SD Min Max 1 Participants' age 1. 4--6 years 76.39 22.94 54.17 100.00 2. 7--13 years 76.04 11.59 46.88 92.71 3. 14-18 years 73.69 13.25 48.96 95.83 2 Duration of illness (Diabetes) 1. < 1 years 76.66 15.69 48.96 95.83 2. 1-5 years 74.39 12.54 46.88 100.00 3. >5 years 75.65 10.84 64.58 92.71 4 Age at Diagnosis of Diabetes 1.  $\leq 6$  years 78.56 13.47 54.17 100.00 2. 7-13 years 73.19 10.94 46.88 88.54 3. 14-18 years 77.86 21.87 48.96 95.83 5 Gender 1. Male 74.02 10.59 48.96 90.63 2. Female 75.95 14.24 46.88 100.00 132 133 134 135 136 6 DM History in Family 1. Yes 76.36 2. None 72.51 13.47 48.96 11.12 46.88 100.00 92.71 7 Parents'

Education Level 1. Primary Education 2. Secondary Education 3. Higher Education

73.76 15.53 76.76 8.45 75.32 13.41 48.96 64.58 46.88 95.83 90.63 100 9 Parents' Occupation 1. Civil Servant/Army/Indonesian Police/Retired 2. Private Employee 74.13 46.88 16.52 11.09 48.96 100.00 93.75 3. Entrepreneur 76.25 14.52 52.08 95.83

Quality of Life of Children Parents' rating of the quality of life of children was generally higher than children's

rating of their own quality of life,

differing by 2.25 points, but not significantly different ( $p = .20$ ). 138 139 140 141 142 Both children and parents rated the highest scores to friend dimension and lowest on school dimension. More details

on the quality of life (QoL) of children rated by children and parents are shown in

Table 2. Table 2. QoL of Children, Family Conflict, and Depression Dimensions

of Quality of Life Mean  $\pm$  SD Min-Max

Shapiro-Wilk Normality Test Children's Version ( $n=51$ ) 76.39  $\pm$  13.27 37.50-97.92 .135 Physical Dimension 74.54  $\pm$  14.07 50.00-100.00 Emotional Dimension 76.37  $\pm$  13.17 37.50-100.00 Self-Esteem Dimension 75.15  $\pm$  19.34 6.25-100.00 Family Dimension 76.37  $\pm$  17.54 31.25-100.00 Friend Dimension 85.67  $\pm$  14.61 43.75-100.00 School Dimension 72.87  $\pm$  17.88 25.00-100.00 Parents' Version ( $n=51$ ) 78.64  $\pm$  9.38 55.21-95.83 .101 Physical Dimension 70.83  $\pm$  15.31 31.25-100.00 Emotional Dimension 81.67  $\pm$  16.50 31.25-100.00 Self-Esteem Dimension 79.17  $\pm$  17.42 43.75-100.00 Family Dimension 81.81  $\pm$  12.42 43.75-100.00 Friend Dimension 90.14  $\pm$  12.53 62.50-100.00 School Dimension 68.19  $\pm$  10.22 43.75-93.75 Depression ( $n=47$ ) 8.28  $\pm$  5.02 2.00-27.00 .137 Family Conflict (47) 31.03  $\pm$  9.28 19-50 .020 143 144 Correlation among Family Conflict,

Number of Children in Family, and Depression and 145 Quality of Life (QoL) in

Children 146 147 Prior to correlation analysis, a Shapiro-Wilk normality test was carried out, and

it was found 148 that data on quality of life and depression

were normally distributed (see Table 2). Using 149 Pearson correlation analysis, a moderate to strong positive relationship (.463) was found 150 between parents' version of QoL of children and QoL of children. Depression in children had 151 a weak to strong negative relationship with the QoL of children (-.287). Family conflict had a 152  $p = .076$  and number of children  $p = .166$ , so both were included in the multivariate-analysis 153 modelling. The results in detail are shown in table 3. 154 155 156 158 Table 3.

Correlation among QoL of Children and Family Conflict, Number of Children, and Depression Variable Pearson  $p$  Correlation Note Correlation QoL of Children 1.00 \* Significant at a confidence level of QoL of .463 -.002\* (+) moderate to Children (Parents' strong 95%, both sides Version) Depression in -.287

.025\* (-) weak Children Family Conflict -.287 -.076\*\* \*\* Number of Children -.218 .166\*\* Included in further in Family analysis/modelling 172 173 174 175 176 The Influence of Family Conflict,

Number of Children in Family, and Depression on Quality of Life of

Children Both variables of family conflict and number of children had a  $p = .250$ ; hence, they were included in the multivariate analysis with multiple linear regression for modeling. The results of modeling show there was an interaction between the variables of family conflict

and number of children in the family, where the R-

square change = >10%, so model 4 was found to be effective at predicting

quality of life in children with T1DM. To find out whether the model conforms to the assumptions of multiple linear regression, the following tests were performed. 1. Existential assumption was met with a residual mean of 0.000 and a standard deviation of 9.648. 2. Independence Assumption was met with a Durbin-Watson value of 1.863 ( $< 2$ ) 3. Linearity assumption was met with an ANOVA score of 0.001 4. Homoscedasticity assumption was met with the spread of dots showing a similar pattern. As the plot, the dots are spread out in a similar pattern and below the diagonal line 0. Hence, the homoscedasticity assumption was met. 5. Normality test. The point distribution of the normal P-P plot image is relatively close to the straight line indicating the fulfillment of the normality distribution 6. Multicollinearity Test. Multicollinearity did not occur as can be seen from the tolerance statistics score of less than 0.4 and a VIP of less than 10. The Final Model With all of the multivariate analysis assumptions being met, the final model

to predict the quality of life of children is as shown in Table 4. Table

4. Model Summary Unst Coeff B t p Collinearity Statistics R- Durbin Tolerance VIF Square Watson Anova Constant 61.837 6.017 .000 QoL of children (Parents' version) .350 2.799 .008 .991 1.009 Depression in children -.670 -2.034 .050 .972 1.029 0.373 1.863 0.001 Interaction (family conflict\*number of -.081 -2.502 .017 .979 1.021 children) 185 186 With the following linear equation model Quality of life of children:  $61.837 + 0.350$  Quality of life of children (parents' version)  $- 0.081$  interaction (Number of children\*family conflict)  $- 0.67$  depression in children The final multivariate modeling displayed in Table 4 shows that quality of life (parents' version), family conflict, and number of children and depression in children are predictors of the

quality of life of children with T1DM and the

overall variables can explain

the quality of life of children with T1DM by

37.3%. The positive (+) effect of

quality of life of children (parents' version) on the quality of life of

children is obtained after the influence of depression and family conflict and number of children is controlled. Each increase

in the score of quality of life of children

(parents' version) by 1 unit will increase the score of

quality of life of children by 0.350, with a value of

$p = .000$ . On the other hand, the negative influence (-) of child depression on

the quality of life of children is obtained after the variables of quality of life of

children (parents' version) and family conflict and number of children are controlled. Each increase by 1 unit in the score of depression in children will reduce the score of

quality of life of children by 0.67 with a value of

$p = .50$ . The interaction between family conflict and number of children

has a negative influence (-) on the quality of life of children after the

variables of quality of life of children (parents' version) and depression in children are controlled. Each increase in the scores of family conflict and

number of children in the family will reduce the score of quality of

life of children by 0.081 with a value of  $p = .017$ . The variables that greatly influence the score of

quality of life of children are family conflict and number of children in the

family and depression in children. DISCUSSION

This study provides important evidence for the urgency of health

care providers

to pay attention to the condition of families with children with diabetes.

The study demonstrates that illness-specific family conflict was negatively correlated with

the quality of life of children. It was also negatively correlated with the number of

children in the family. Moreover, both of the factors (interaction variables) were strong predictors of

the quality of life of children with T1DM. Depression in

children also serves as a predictor. The finding indicating

that diabetes-specific family conflict was negatively correlated to the quality of

life of diabetic children is

in accordance with that of previous studies (Cameron et al., 2007; Laffel et al,



2003). Diabetes-specific family conflict is a negative condition caused by the less than optimal family resilience in caring for children and family's lack of knowledge and skills, especially parents, in caring for children (Klingensmith, Kaufman, Schatz, & Clarke, 2005). Family conflict causes depression in diabetic children (Hood et al., 2006). Family conflict can arise due to financial constraints (Pediatrics & American Academy of Pediatrics, 2003). Diabetic children who experience depression increase the cost of health financing because of the increased frequency of doctor visits and use of drugs (Holt, De Groot, & Golden, 2014); as a result, depression in children with diabetes becomes a complicating variable on the quality of life of children. In line with the results of previous studies,

the number of children in the family also

had a negative correlation with the quality of life

of children (Özyazıcıoğlu, Avdal, & Sağlam, 2017). The

number of children in the family triggers and aggravates conflicts in the

family because each family member needs time and attention from parents and other family members;

hence, more members in the family means more time and attention needed (Dai & Wang, 2015);

meanwhile, diabetic children need more attention. Providing holistic care for children with diabetes is one of the family's tasks (Geisler et al., 2012; Dai & Wang, 2015; Pereira, Berg-Cross, Almeida, & Machado, 2008). Poor glycemic control and ability of children in self-care are

associated with a decrease in the quality of

family functions. Family processes also

play a major role in the development of depression in adolescents with diabetes

(Moore, Hackworth, Hamilton, Northam, & Cameron, 2013). The negative correlation of depression in children with T1DM with

the quality of life of children found in the

present study is also

in accordance with the result of previous studies

(Egede & Ellis, 2010). Depression is a condition that describes a decrease in the interest and

ability to carry out daily activities, fatigue, and difficulty in

concentrating (Avianti, Z., & Rumahorbo, 2016). Therefore, when depression occurs in a child with diabetes, it will worsen the condition of the disease because the child will have difficulty to take such therapy as insulin injection, physical exercise,

diet, and monitoring of blood glucose levels (Chen et al.,

2017; Moore et al., 2013). Meanwhile, a study shows that the

quality of life of children with T2DM is better in

children who do physical exercise  $\geq 30$  minutes and who routinely monitor blood glucose every day

(Anderson et al., 2017). Depressed teenagers also exhibit poor performance in their communication and overall roles (Chen et al., 2017); however, psychological therapy yields better results

in children and adolescents with diabetes than in

adults (Winkley, Landau, Eisler, & Ismail, 2006). Children with T1DM who experience severe depression are at risk of being hospitalized due to complications of the disease (Hood et al., 2006). Depression correlates with poor self-care ability related to poor family function, blood glucose control, and recurrence of complications of ketoacidosis (8, 10) and is a serious comorbid that worsens quality of life, high cost of living, complications, and decreased productivity; thus, depression must be prevented and minimized.

Based on the results of this study, we

can recommend effective forms of intervention that can improve

the quality of life of diabetic children. As suggested by Curtis and

Hagerty (2002), continuous educational interventions are effective in managing children with diabetes and psychoeducational interventions can increase parental involvement in glycemic control and family

conflict management (Katz Michelle L; Volkening Lisa K, 2014). Educational interventions for parents are

also recommended in the treatment of T1DM children in Indonesia (Tridjaya AAP et al., 2015). The

implications of this study highlight the needs of families with diabetic children for effective interventions in managing diabetes-specific family conflict as well as building family capacity to prevent and control depression that occurs in children with diabetes. In addition, more accessible information and optimal

support for children are needed to optimize

quality of life of children with diabetes. Limitations The

design employed was

a cross-sectional study, with a limited number of

samples (51 T1DM children and their parents). Because of the limited information available about 12 T1DM children and the limited number of subjects seeking treatment, the study only tested three independent variables, namely diabetes-specific family conflict,

number of children in the family, and

depression in children. Conclusions The results of multivariate analysis show that family factors, especially the interaction

between diabetes-specific family conflict and

the number of children in the family, were the main predictors of quality of

life of children with T1DM. Depression was negatively correlated to and adversely affected

quality of life of children. The quality of life of children in the

children's and parents' versions was positively correlated. Nurses can develop psychoeducation interventions in helping children and parents. An effective model to predict

quality of life of children with

T1DM is as follows:  $61.837 + 0.350$

quality of life of children (parents'

version) -  $0.081$  interaction (number of children \* family conflict) -  $0.67$  depression in children. Family conflict and depression in children can be overcome by psychoeducational interventions for children and parents as an effort to optimize the quality of life of children. Acknowledgment This study was financially supported

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Conflicts of interest The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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