P-151 - PARENTING STYLES AND COPING STRATEGIES IN PKU CHILDREN

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INTRODUCTION: Early detected and treated PKU does not lead to mental impairment but requires prolonged treatment, care, and control. As a chronic disease with intensive care of diet and habits it may influence the bonding between parents and child and the resources of the child to deal with conflictive situations. OBJECTIVES: To describe the predominant perceived parenting styles in early detected and well controlled PKU children from the perception of the child (son) and to identify their coping strategies. PATIENTS AND METHODS: An intentional sample of 30 PKU children aged 9 to 10 years detected through neonatal screening and adequately treated since the first month of life with good adherence, was selected and compared with 30 healthy children of the same age (control group (CG)). Inclusion criteria were: absence of other concurrent diseases, parents with a complete high school educational level and a similar socioeconomic status. The evaluation was performed with the Argentine coping questionnaire for children aged 9-12 years, Argentina Scale perception of the relationship with Parents and Test WISC III: comprehension subtest. MANOVA´s were carried out as statistical analysis, with a significance level of p <0.05. Also relation between parenting styles and coping strategies was statistically assessed by Pearson´s. RESULTS: Differently from the CG, PKU children perceived the relationship with their parents based on control. This control was considered strict to pathologic in the mother and perceived as acceptable in the father (both p<0.05) Regarding to coping strategies PKU children showed a tendency to seek greater support and showed more lack of emotional control when facing conflictive situations A positive correlation was found between the strict control and lack of emotional control r:.398 p<.03 and between the seek of support and the emotional dyscontrol r:.383 p <0.04 CONCLUSION: The tendency to require more support and to have less emotional control when facing problems found in our PKU children cohort seems to be related to the strict maternal control. This profile may develop into a psychological and behavioral trait of greater dependency and impulsivity that has to be taken into account when monitoring PKU children evolution.