

My Favorite Child Life Specialist Paper

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Psychosocial support for children and families requiring renal replacement therapy

Alan R. Watson, May 2013

What We Know

- Children that undergo renal replacement therapy have more than just medical side effects.
 - They also experience major affects with growth, schooling, social relations and psychologically.

The Burden for this population is higher than any other

Insert Child Life Specialists

- Goal of Child Life Specialists
 - Assess Coping, Prepare, Play, Normalize Environment, Self-Esteem, Procedural Support.

Why Child Life Specialists?

- “Minimizing the handicap of renal replacement therapy and maximizing the potential of the ESRD pediatric patient.”
 - Decision making
 - Preparation/Adaptation
 - Family Support/Siblings
 - Coping
 - 1:1 Support
 - Self-Esteem



Conclusion

- By having a Child Life Specialist on your pediatric dialysis team, you can better improve the overall coping of this burdening treatment for this population.
- Child Life Specialists work closely with the medical team to ensure that the patient and family unit have the tools they need to be successful with both in-center and home dialysis.
- The tools the Child Life specialist brings to the table are invaluable in creating a supportive and normal environment with the dialysis population.

Questions?

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