Abstract

In this ex post facto study, we have analysed if relatives of patients with bad quality of life show differences in the variables clinical of personality and family relations depending on the fact that the patient has been hospitalized or not in the Intensive Care Unit. We have selected two groups: (1) 29 relatives of severely traumatized patients after four years of being hospitalized in a Traumatology ICU and with bad quality of life (due to physical and/or psychological sequelae of the hospitalization such as traumatic brain injuries, politraumatisms and traumatic quadriplegics) and (2) 32 relatives of patients with bad quality of life with a four-year evolution of their physical medical condition (hypertension, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and irritable bowel syndrome) who have never been hospitalized in the ICU. In order to achieve our goal we have used a Psychosocial Survey and the following tools: Clinical Analysis Questionnaire, Family Environment Scale and Psychosocial Adjustment to Illness Scale. The results indicated that relatives with patients with bad quality of life who were in the ICU four years ago show significant differences in the variables agitation and expression compared to relatives of patients with bad quality of life who have not been in the ICU.

Keywords

Intensive Care Unit. Quality of life. Relative. Ex post facto study.