

EFFECT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN ALLERGIC PERSON

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The paper analyzed the impact of allergies on quality of life in young people, and examined whether socio-economic status modifies the above dependence. The research was conducted among 458 female and 363 male university students, aged 18 to 25 y. Using the questionnaire, information on socio-economic status were collected. The occurrence of allergy was determined on the basis of answers to the questions whether the allergy and its allergens were defined on the basis of medical research. Quality of life (QoL) was based on the Polish version of the SF-36 test. Respiratory allergy or respiratory and food allergy were declared by 19.20% of women and 69 19.00% of men. The prevalence of allergies was higher in students with high SES. Students suffering from allergies obtained lower scores in terms of all domains of QoL, but the differences were statistically insignificant. The overall test result in allergic students was significantly lower than in non allergic students. Differences in quality of life were significantly associated with socio-economic variables. In groups with low status the differences in quality of life between people suffering from allergies and those who did not have allergies were larger than in groups with high status. The results indicate that the course of allergic diseases is highly dependent on socio-economic status. The prevalence of allergy among students with low status is lower than among those with high status. However, allergy to a greater extent impair the quality of life of students with low than high SES.