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CORRELATION OF INTELLECTUAL PERFORMANCE AND PREDICTIVE SIGNS OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH CLEFT LIP/PALATE

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OBJECTIVE: To identify the correlation between intellectual performance and predictive signs of anxiety and depression in caregivers of children with cleft lip and palate during the perioperative period of primary surgery. **METHOD:** Participants were 20 mothers of children with cleft lip and palate submitted to cheiloplasty and palatoplasty, with a mean age of 27 years and education level of high school. The instruments used were the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) and the Test of Nonverbal Intelligence G36. Data were subjected to statistical analysis by Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data. **RESULTS:** The correlation of the results obtained through the instruments showed that, in relation to anxiety, 35% of subjects had minimal anxiety and poor intellectual level (V), 25% minimal anxiety and intellectual level below average (IV) and 25% mild anxiety and poor intellectual level (V); statistical analysis obtained p: 0.38. For depression, 35% had low level and poor intellectual level (V) and 30% mild level and intellectual level below average (IV), statistically p: 0.50. **CONCLUSION:** There was no statistical significance in the results obtained, justified by the small sample size. However, qualitatively, the results showed that the lower the intellectual level of the subjects, the lower the anxiety and depression levels. The higher the cognitive ability of the caregiver, the greater were their expectations on the surgical procedure and the anticipation of the results, which can lead to increased symptoms of anxiety and depression.