

XI. STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

Pregnancy is a unique time in every woman's life as from its beginning an emotional bond between the mother and the child is created. The still-developing process of perinatal diagnosis allows each woman to know the child's health condition even before the birth. Unfortunately, some parents feel crushed if they learn about a child's lethal defects. In such a situation, when they decide to continue the pregnancy, parents may rely on palliative care provided by perinatal hospices.

The main aim of the study was the evaluation of the need for perinatal hospices in the eyes of medical faculties students and the Health Care personnel.

Four research hypotheses have been proposed: 1. The knowledge of perinatal palliative care among students and the Health Care personnel is insufficient. 2. The need for perinatal hospice functioning and, in case of child prenatal defects, referring women to them is relatively rare. 3. Students and qualified health professionals are not trained for holding conversations concerning the death and diagnosis of the fetus. 4. Public opinion states, in case of lethal defects, families are exposed to family crisis and deterioration of relations among the members.

The research was concluded after obtaining the approval of the Bioethics Commission of the Medical University in Białystok (resolution no. R-I-002/366/2016). The study group comprised of 900 people, including 450 students of medicine, nursing, obstetrics at the Medical University in Białystok (150 students of each faculty), 450 health professionals: 150 doctors, 150 nurses, 150 midwives. The diagnostic survey method, with a self-designed questionnaire prepared specially for this thesis, has been used; it was based on subjective assessment of PFW – Perceived Family Wealth, FAS – Family Affluence Scale, SWLS - The Satisfaction with Life Scale – *E. Dinner, R. A. Emmons, S. Griffin*, Juczynski's adaptation of SWLS, Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire (SCSORF), and Andrzej Weglinski's Kwestionariusz Rozumienia Empatycznego innych ludzi – KRE-2.

All proposed hypotheses have been confirmed in the conclusion; the 1st and 3rd hypotheses were confirmed in full, whereas the 2nd and 4th only partially. The obtained results allowed to conclude the respondents' views at abortion, due to eugenic reasons, varied and were based on profession/faculty, gender, religiousness, and level of empathy. Responders' knowledge about perinatal hospices was insufficient and depended on profession/faculty, gender, and life satisfaction. Opinion about the right for maternity leave in

case of a dead fetus based on profession/faculty and life satisfaction. Examined students were often unable to evaluate their conversational abilities when it came to a child's illness or death; doctors were the ones with the best attitude towards such conversations and nurses with the worst. Knowledge about grief stages was generally assessed positively, nevertheless, it varied among different professions/faculties, marital status, gender, and the level of life satisfaction. Opinion about emotions, relations with the closest family, and surrounding reaction after child's lethal defect diagnose depended on profession/faculty, age, gender, seniority, level of empathy and understanding, level of life satisfaction, and strength of religious beliefs. The majority of responders declared the will to broaden knowledge of perinatal palliative care, however, it was affected by age, profession/ faculty, level of empathy and understanding, religiousness, and level of life satisfaction.

Moreover, it was assumed there is a need for new perinatal hospices; familiarizing society with the rules of its functioning is also sought after. Adequate knowledge and communication after defect diagnosis play an important role during the process of adaptation to the situation when parents await the birth and death of a defected child. It is stated the perinatal palliative care should be included in the education program; special courses and lectures should be organized for working health professionals.