

**QUALITY OF LIFE IN SIBLINGS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN****A. Eladl<sup>1</sup>, H. Atwa<sup>2</sup>**

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**Background:** characterized by qualitative abnormalities in social interactions and its incidence increased.

**Objective:** To evaluate the Quality of Life (QOL) among siblings of autistic children.

**Methods:** 95 Egyptian siblings of autistic children as group1 and, 95 healthy children matched in age as a control group took part in this study. The study was conducted between February 2009 -May 2010. Inclusion criteria: age between 6 and 12 years old and regular attendance to school. Exclusion criteria: absence of chronic illness; or psychiatric diseases; motor disabilities; cognitive and/or intelligence disabilities. Quality of life was evaluated by WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire, which assesses satisfaction in different life circumstances, by means of 4 factors (autonomy, leisure, functions and family).

**Results:** The mean age 9.2 yr, +/-SD 3.7. QOL among siblings of autistic children was significantly limited in sibling of autistic than control (P 0.02). The level of impairment of physical (p = 0.002) social relationships (P0.004) and psychological (p = 0.01) well-being were higher in female than in male sibling.

**Conclusion:** The quality of life was compromised in children by the presence of an autistic sibling. They are in need for additional support.