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# Earthquake and Sleep Health Effects

## Deprem ve Uyku Sağlığı Etkileri

✉ Ege Güleç Balbay, ✉ Ali Nihat Annakkaya, ✉ Öner Balbay

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### Abstract

Despite receiving little attention in the scientific literature, earthquakes are known to affect sleep patterns indirectly and can contribute to the development or worsening of sleep disorders. Earthquake-caused disruptions, such as structural damage, displacement, and unstable living conditions, create uncomfortable and anxious sleeping environments. Psychological factors such as fear, stress, and anxiety can contribute to sleep disruption. Physical injuries from earthquakes can disrupt sleep due to pain and discomfort. Additionally, infrastructure disruptions such as power outages and utility damage create uncomfortable or unsafe sleeping conditions. This review presents a comprehensive and systematic overview of the relationship between earthquakes and sleep health.

**Keywords:** Anxiety, earthquake, positive airway pressure (PAP), sleep, stress

### Öz

Bilimsel literatürdeki sınırlı ilgiye rağmen, depremlerin uyku düzenini dolaylı olarak etkilediği ve uyku bozukluklarının gelişmesine veya kötüleşmesine katkıda bulunabileceği bilinmektedir. Depremlerin neden olduğu yapısal hasarlar, yer değiştirmeler, dengesiz yaşam koşulları gibi aksamalar rahatsızlık, endişe ve yetersiz uyku ortamları yaratır. Korku, stres ve kaygı gibi psikolojik etkiler uyku bozukluklarına katkıda bulunabilir. Depremlerden kaynaklanan fiziksel yaralanmalar da ağrı ve rahatsızlık nedeniyle uykuyu bozar. Ek olarak, elektrik kesintileri ve kamu hizmetlerinin hasar görmesi gibi altyapı kesintileri, rahatsız edici veya güvensiz uyku koşulları yaratır. Bu derleme, depremler ve uyku sağlığı etkileri arasındaki ilişkiye kapsamlı ve sistematik bir genel bakış sağlamayı amaçlamaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kaygı, deprem, pozitif hava yolu basıncı (PAP), uyku, stres

### Introduction

Earthquakes are devastating, causing significant loss of life, injuries, displacement, and environmental damage. With over a million earthquakes occurring worldwide each year, the frequency and severity of these events highlight the importance of understanding their effects on human health.<sup>1,2</sup> Earthquakes are natural disasters that can have serious effects on individuals' overall well-being, including their sleep quality.<sup>3</sup> The relationship between earthquakes and sleep disorders has received little attention in scientific literature. However, earthquakes are known to have an indirect impact on sleep patterns, contributing to the development or exacerbation of sleeping disorders in a variety of ways.

Earthquakes can cause structural damage to buildings, displacing people from their homes and creating unstable living conditions. These disruptions can cause discomfort, anxiety, and a lack of conducive sleeping environments, making it difficult for people to sleep or maintain consistent sleep patterns. Following an earthquake, people may be displaced from their homes and forced to live in temporary shelters or evacuation centers. These living conditions may not provide the comfort and privacy

required for good sleep. Overcrowding, noise, and unfamiliar surroundings can all cause poor sleep quality.<sup>4,5</sup>

Earthquakes are traumatic events that can have a significant psychological impact on people. Earthquake-related fear, stress, and anxiety can result in various mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, and depression. These psychological conditions can severely disrupt sleep and contribute to the emergence of sleeping disorders.<sup>6,7</sup> Earthquakes can cause physical injuries, such as fractures or musculoskeletal pain, making it difficult to find a comfortable sleeping position. Pain and discomfort can disrupt sleep, leading to more sleep disturbances.<sup>8,9</sup>

Earthquakes can disrupt infrastructure, resulting in power outages or damage to utilities such as electricity, water, and sewage systems. Environmental changes, such as a lack of lighting, extreme temperatures, or increased noise levels, can make sleeping uncomfortable or unsafe.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, several factors can influence continued positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy during and after an earthquake. Earthquakes can cause power outages, which can disrupt CPAP therapy. Without electricity, patients may be unable to power their CPAP devices, disrupting their treatment.

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This review aims to provide a comprehensive and systematic overview of the relationship between earthquakes and sleep health impacts (Figure 1). By synthesizing existing research and identifying knowledge gaps, this review aims to shed light on the short- and long-term effects of earthquakes on sleep quality, sleep disorders, and the implications for individuals' overall health and well-being. The findings of this review will help to improve our understanding of earthquakes' multidimensional effects on human health and provide insights into disaster preparedness and post-earthquake recovery strategies.

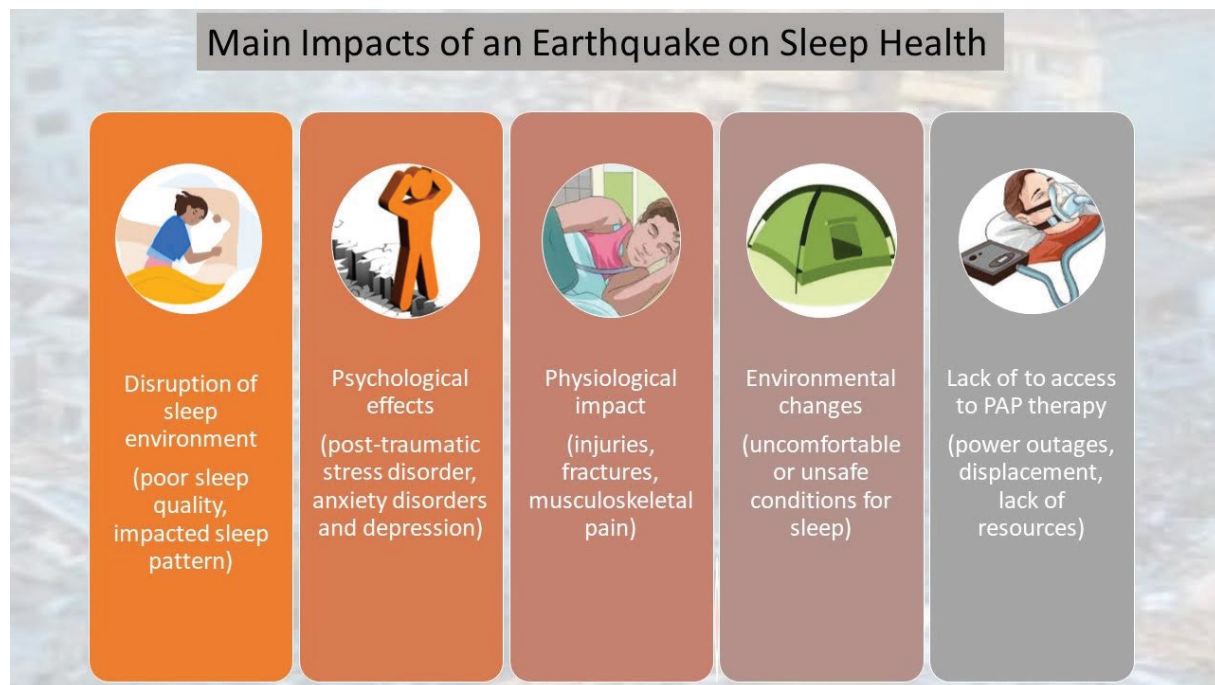
### Disruption of the Sleep Environment

Following an earthquake, people may need to leave their homes and seek temporary shelters in places such as evacuation centers or makeshift shelters. These environments frequently lack the comfort, privacy, and familiarity required surroundings quality sleep. Overcrowding in these facilities can cause noise disturbances, increased discomfort, and a lack of personal space, all of which can disrupt sleep.

Tempesta et al.<sup>11</sup> used the Pittsburgh sleep quality index (PSQI) to evaluate sleep quality in 665 earthquake-affected L'Aquila residents. When the results of the study were compared with those before and after the earthquake, they showed a significant decrease in sleep quality. Two years after the earthquake, citizens had the highest PSQI scores (indicating poorer sleep quality) and the highest incidence of disruptive nocturnal behaviors (DNB) compared with those in the surrounding areas. Interestingly, participants living within 70 km of the epicenter had above-threshold PSQI scores, indicating sleep disturbances, whereas trauma-related DNBs were found in people living within a 40-km radius. The findings also suggested a possible

mediating effect of depression on PSQI scores, implying that depression may contribute to the observed sleep disturbances. The study found that the psychological effects of an earthquake can extend beyond the immediate building destruction and persist for years, affecting a larger population. The findings revealed a decrease in sleep quality and an increase in DNB 2 years after the earthquake, which may be risk factors for the development of depression and PTSD.<sup>11</sup>

A study in the United States focused on transition-age youth (TAY) aged 18-25 years and aimed to investigate the relationships between sleep disturbances and two factors: sheltered status and perceived safety of the usual sleep environment. The study included 103 participants, 60% of whom reported being sheltered. The results showed that 26% of the participants reported moderate-to-severe sleep disturbances. Data analysis revealed that sleep disturbance was not significantly associated with shelter status. It was, however, positively associated with a sense of being unsafe in one's sleeping environment. This suggests that the perception of safety in the sleep environment is a more significant contributor to sleep disturbances among TAY experiencing homelessness than it is among those who are sheltered. The study also identified other factors associated with sleep disturbances among TAY. These factors included depression symptoms, severe food insecurity, and a younger age. These findings indicate that a variety of factors, including mental health, access to sufficient food, and age, contribute to sleep disturbances in this population. Based on the findings, the study concludes that sleep disturbances are more closely related to how safe people feel in their sleep environment than to their shelter status.<sup>12</sup>



**Figure 1.** Relationship between earthquakes and sleep health effects

PAP: Positive airway pressure

Addressing these sleep-related issues in the aftermath of an earthquake is critical to the well-being and recovery of those affected. Efforts should be made to provide appropriate and safe temporary housing that prioritizes privacy, comfort, and noise reduction. Psychological support and counseling services should also be made available to help people deal with the emotional aftermath of the earthquake and reduce anxiety and stress, which can improve sleep quality. Furthermore, promoting good sleep hygiene practices and providing access to sleep aids or relaxation techniques can help manage sleep disturbances during this challenging time.

### Psychological Impact

Earthquakes can cause severe psychological distress, including PTSD, which can disrupt sleep. Individuals who have been through a traumatic event may experience nightmares, flashbacks, and intrusive thoughts, which can disrupt their sleep and lead to insomnia.<sup>13-15</sup>

Jiang et al.'s<sup>15</sup> study focused on a specific group of earthquake survivors who remained in temporary housing camps for about 2 year following China's Wenchuan earthquake. The researchers aimed to determine the prevalence of sleep disorders, PTSD, depression, and anxiety among these survivors. The study included 387 people who had sleep problems and continued to reside in temporary housing camps 17-27 months after the earthquake. According to the findings, the vast majority of survivors (83.20%) reported having sleep problems. Insomnia was the most common sleep problem (79.33%). Among the participants, 12.14% showed symptoms of PTSD, 36.43% had depression, and 38.24% had anxiety.<sup>15</sup>

The study, conducted in Minamisanriku Town, aimed to determine the prevalence and risk factors for sleep disturbance among people affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The study divided the patients into two groups: those with mental health issues other than sleep disturbance and those with other comorbidities. Of the patients with mental health issues, 60.0% reported sleep disturbance, indicating the need for specific treatments. Among the remaining patients with other comorbidities, 12.1% reported sleep disturbance. It is important to note that sleep disturbance affects both patients with mental health issues and those without. The study used univariate and multivariate analyses on patients with other comorbidities to identify risk factors for sleep disturbance. The findings revealed that females, elderly people over the age of 60 years, and those living in evacuation centers experience more sleep disturbance.<sup>14</sup>

### Physiological Effects

The relationship between sleep and pain is bidirectional, which means that sleep deprivation can both cause and result from pain. Several bodily systems have been identified as contributing to the interaction of sleep and pain. These include the opioid, monoaminergic, orexinergic, immune, melatonin, and endocannabinoid systems, as well as the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis, adenosine, and nitric oxide signaling. These systems interact with one another and with other neural pathways, influencing sleep quality and pain perception.

Disruptions in any of these systems caused by sleep deprivation or pain conditions can set off a vicious cycle in which poor sleep leads to increased pain, which then interferes with sleep, exacerbating the problem.<sup>8</sup>

Earthquakes can result in physical injuries like fractures, musculoskeletal pain, and other trauma, making it challenging to find a comfortable sleeping position. Pain and discomfort can disrupt sleep, leading to more sleep disturbances. When people are injured in an earthquake, the resulting pain and discomfort can make it difficult to find a position that relieves or reduces the pain. Lying down or putting weight on the injured areas may aggravate the discomfort, making it challenging to fall asleep and stay asleep all night.<sup>8,9</sup>

Sleep disturbances caused by earthquake injuries can have a variety of consequences. Sleep is essential for the body's healing process, and inadequate sleep can impede recovery from injuries. Furthermore, sleep deprivation can have a negative impact on overall well-being, mood, cognitive function, and immune system function, slowing down the healing process.<sup>16</sup>

### Environmental Changes

Natural disasters, such as earthquakes, can cause environmental changes that make sleeping uncomfortable or unsafe. Below are some specific examples:

**Lack of lighting:** Earthquakes can cause power outages, resulting in a lack of lighting in homes and temporary shelters. This can make it difficult for people to feel safe and comfortable when they try to sleep.<sup>17,18</sup>

**Extreme temperatures:** After an earthquake, infrastructure disruptions may affect heating and cooling systems. This can produce extreme temperatures, either too hot or too cold, making it challenging to sleep comfortably.<sup>19,20</sup>

**Increased noise levels:** Earthquakes are frequently accompanied by loud noises, such as shaking, structural collapses, sirens, and emergency response operations. These noises can persist even after the initial event, causing disruptions and making it difficult to fall asleep or sleep uninterrupted.<sup>21-23</sup>

**Unfamiliar sleeping environments:** After an earthquake, people may have to sleep in unfamiliar places, such as temporary shelters or crowded evacuation centers. These environments can be noisy, uncomfortable, and lack privacy, reducing sleep quality.<sup>24-27</sup>

Individuals affected by earthquakes may experience sleep disturbances, insomnia, and increased levels of stress and anxiety as a result of these factors.<sup>28-30</sup>

Li et al.'s<sup>31</sup> study aimed to investigate the relationships between disaster experiences, social support, and sleep problems in older adults who experienced the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami. A follow-up survey was conducted in 2013, around 2.5 years after the disaster. The findings of the study revealed that financial hardship was significantly associated with an increased risk of several sleep problems. Financial hardship was associated with an increased risk of short sleep duration, sleep insufficiency, poor sleep quality, and insomnia symptoms. Home destruction was found to predict the use of sleep medication, implying that people who had their homes



destroyed were more likely to rely on it. Healthcare disruption was linked to poor sleep quality. Interestingly, the study found that the loss of close relatives or friends did not predict any ongoing sleep problems. This indicates that, despite the emotional impact of losing loved ones, it may not have a direct and long-term impact on sleep in older disaster survivors. The study emphasizes the importance of addressing the specific needs of older survivors, particularly those related to sleep health, as part of targeted recovery efforts to improve overall well-being in this population.<sup>31</sup>

### Secondary Effects on Mental Health

In addition to the immediate effects of the earthquake, long-term consequences such as loss of property, displacement, and ongoing stress can have a significant impact on mental health. Depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders can lead to sleep problems and insomnia.<sup>7</sup>

Eray et al.<sup>32</sup> investigated the long-term effects of relocation and social support on the mental health of adolescents who had survived the Van earthquake. The researchers divided the study group into two groups: adolescents who were relocated following the earthquake and those who remained in their original location. They also included a control group of unaffected adolescents as a comparison. The study found a significant difference in child PTSD scores between the earthquake-affected study groups, with higher scores in the relocated group. This indicates that adolescents' mental health may suffer as a result of their relocation following an earthquake. Furthermore, among earthquake-affected participants, those who had personally witnessed the death or injury of a family member or friend had significantly higher PTSD scores than the others. This finding emphasizes the profound impact of traumatic experiences, particularly those involving the loss or harm of loved ones, on adolescents' mental health. On a positive note, the study emphasized the significance of strong family support in assisting adolescents in dealing with psychological problems. The presence of a supportive family has been shown to play an important role in promoting preventive mental health measures and facilitating psychological recovery in the aftermath of natural disasters such as earthquakes. In conclusion, the study indicates that an earthquake can have a negative impact on adolescents' mental health in the long run. Relocation and exposure to traumatic experiences, such as witnessing a loved one's death or injury, were associated with increased PTSD scores. However, the study emphasizes the importance of social support systems, particularly those within the family, in mitigating the negative impact and assisting adolescents in their psychological recovery after such disasters. Strengthening social support networks, particularly within families, may thus be an important factor in improving the mental health of adolescents affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes.<sup>32</sup>

### PAP Therapy

Many factors influence PAP device compliance, including obstructive sleep apnea severity, depression and anxiety levels,

mask comfort, lack of side effects, perceived benefits, and therapy satisfaction. Furthermore, several factors can influence CPAP therapy during and after an earthquake. Earthquakes can cause power outages, which can disrupt CPAP therapy. Without electricity, patients may be unable to power their CPAP devices, disrupting their treatment. Earthquakes often cause people to be displaced from their homes or healthcare facilities. This displacement may result in the loss or damage of CPAP equipment, making it difficult for patients to continue their therapy.<sup>33,34</sup>

After an earthquake, medical supplies, such as CPAP masks, hoses, and filters, may become limited or unavailable. This scarcity can make it challenging for patients to obtain the necessary equipment for their CPAP treatment.<sup>35</sup>

Earthquakes can cause emotional distress and anxiety in people, including those with sleep disorders. Anxiety and stress can impair sleep quality and exacerbate sleep-related breathing disorders, potentially worsening the symptoms of patients with CPAP.<sup>36,37</sup>

Mito et al.'s<sup>38</sup> study focused on the impact of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake on patients with sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) who use nasal continuous CPAP (nCPAP) devices. The researchers aimed to assess ability of patients with SDB to continue using their nCPAP devices in the aftermath of the earthquake, determine whether the inability to use the device resulted in symptom relapse, and propose measures to reduce disruptions in nCPAP therapy during future disasters. A questionnaire was distributed to 1,047 SDB patients within 14 days of the earthquake. The questionnaire asked about their ability to use their nCPAP devices, the duration of the inability to use the device, the reasons for being unable to use it, the occurrence of symptom relapse during the non-use period, the ability to use the device at evacuation sites, and recommendations for improving the device. The study found that 92.3% of the surveyed patients (966 out of 1,047) were unable to use their nCPAP devices in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. The primary reason given for being unable to use the device was a power outage, followed by anxiety about sleeping at night due to fear of aftershocks, participation in disaster relief activities, loss of the nasal CPAP device, and fear of being unable to wake up in an emergency. It is critical to develop strategies that ensure the continuation of nCPAP therapy during disasters to provide patients with SDB with a safe sleeping environment. This study emphasizes the importance of addressing the challenges faced by patients with SDB and implementing measures to prevent disruptions in nCPAP therapy. This allows healthcare providers to better support SDB patients' sleep health and overall well-being during disasters.<sup>38</sup> Healthcare providers and disaster response teams must be aware of the specific needs of patients receiving CPAP therapy during and after earthquakes. Efforts should be made to ensure the availability of backup power solutions, facilitate the distribution of CPAP equipment and supplies, and provide patients with support and guidance to help them maintain their therapy during such challenging times.

## Conclusion

It is critical to address the sleep health effects of earthquakes and provide assistance to those affected by these events. Sleep health is an often overlooked but critical aspect of recovery, as sleep disruptions are common following a traumatic event such as an earthquake. Here are some suggestions about post-earthquake recovery strategies for sleep health:

**Establish a safe and stable shelter:** Establishing a safe and stable shelter is a top priority in post-earthquake recovery. Adequate shelter can significantly improve sleep quality by protecting from the elements while also reducing stress and anxiety.

**Mental health support:** Earthquake survivors frequently suffer from PTSD and other mental health issues that interfere with their sleep. Providing mental health services such as counseling and therapy can help to mitigate these effects.

**Community-based interventions:** Communities can form support groups, workshops, and activities to promote mental health. These interventions promote a sense of belonging and support, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety that can disrupt sleep.

**Natural disaster preparedness education:** Teaching communities how to prepare for and respond to earthquakes can help to reduce their psychological impact of them. Knowing what to do during and after an earthquake can reduce fear and stress, which improves sleep.

**Physical activity and relaxation techniques:** These activities can help reduce stress and improve sleep quality.

**Environmental considerations:** Darker, quieter environment can aid in sleep.

**Healthy nutrition:** Promote a balanced and healthy diet, as proper nutrition can affect sleep quality. Avoid excessive caffeine and alcohol consumption, particularly in the evening.<sup>11,39,40</sup>

## Future Research

Future research into the sleep health effects of earthquakes would be beneficial in expanding our understanding of the subject. Here are some areas that could be investigated in future research:

**Long-term impact:** It is critical to investigate earthquakes' long-term effects on sleep health. This includes looking into the persistence of sleep disturbances, changes in sleep patterns over time, and the factors that contribute to prolonged sleep problems after an earthquake.

**Vulnerable populations:** Exploring the impact of earthquakes on the sleep health of vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, people with pre-existing sleep disorders, and those who live in seismically active areas, can yield valuable insights. Understanding their specific challenges and identifying effective interventions can help tailor support for these groups.

**Mental health and sleep:** Examining the relationship between post-earthquake mental health issues (e.g., PTSD, anxiety, and depression) and sleep disturbances can help us gain a better understanding of how these factors interact. Longitudinal studies can shed light on the bidirectional relationship by investigating how poor sleep causes mental health problems and vice versa.

**Sleep interventions:** It is critical to evaluate the effectiveness of various interventions aimed at improving sleep health quality following earthquakes. This could include assessing the effectiveness of psychological counseling, sleep hygiene education, access to safe sleeping arrangements, and medical interventions for sleep disorders in earthquake-affected communities.

By focusing on these research areas, we can gain a better understanding of the sleep health effects of earthquakes and develop targeted interventions to help individuals and communities affected by these events.

## Ethics

### Authorship Contributions

Concept: E.G.B., A.N.A., Ö.B., Design: E.G.B., A.N.A., Ö.B., Data Collection or Processing: E.G.B., A.N.A., Ö.B., Analysis or Interpretation: E.G.B., A.N.A., Ö.B., Literature Search: E.G.B., A.N.A., Ö.B., Writing: E.G.B., A.N.A., Ö.B.

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# The Effects of Problematic Media Tools Use on Sleep Habits in Children: A Primary School-based Study

## Problemli Medya Araçları Kullanımının Çocuklarda Uyku Alışkanlıkları Üzerine Etkileri: İlkokul Temelli Bir Araştırma

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### Abstract

**Objective:** The frequent use of media tools among children in almost all aspects of daily life affects their sleep patterns negatively. This study was conducted to determine the effects of problematic media use on sleep habits in children.

**Materials and Methods:** This research was conducted as a descriptive and cross-sectional study. The sample of the study consisted of 370 students enrolled in primary schools in the provincial center of Zonguldak in Turkey. The data were collected face-to-face or via Google forms online based on the preferences of the parents of the children. The data collection instruments included a personal information form, the problematic media use measure (PMUM), and the children's sleep habits questionnaire (CSHQ).

**Results:** The mean CSHQ score of the children was  $63.77 \pm 10.23$ , while their mean PMUM score was  $17.80 \pm 7.80$ . The mean age at which the first media tools were purchased for the children was  $6.18 \pm 2.37$ . The mean PMUM scores of the children varied significantly based on their genders ( $p=0.009$ ) and the employment statuses of their mothers ( $p=0.021$ ). A positive and significant relationship was found between the mean CSHQ and PMUM scores of the children ( $r=0.214$ ;  $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** This research shows that media tools should be used in a controlled manner in primary school children. This is necessary both for the child to acquire a healthy sleep habits and to prevent diseases that may occur due to this reason.

**Keywords:** Children, primary school, problematic media use, sleep habits

### Öz

**Amaç:** Medya araçlarının çocuklar arasında günlük hayatın hemen her alanında sıklıkla kullanılması uyku düzenlerini olumsuz etkilemektedir. Bu çalışma, çocuklarda problemli medya kullanımının uyku alışkanlıklarına etkisini belirlemek amacıyla yapılmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Bu araştırma tanımlayıcı ve kesitsel bir araştırma olarak yapılmıştır. Araştırmanın örneklemini Türkiye'nin Zonguldak il merkezindeki ilköğretim okullarına kayıtlı 370 öğrenci oluşturmaktadır. Veriler, çocukların ebeveynlerinin tercihlerine göre yüz yüze veya Google forms aracılığıyla çevrimiçi olarak toplanmıştır. Veri toplama araçları arasında kişisel bilgi formu, problemli medya kullanma ölçeği (PMKÖ) ve çocuk uyku alışkanlıkları anketi (ÇUAA) yer almaktadır.

**Bulgular:** Çocukların ÇUAA puan ortalaması  $63,77 \pm 10,23$ , PMKÖ puan ortalaması  $17,80 \pm 7,80$  olarak bulunmuştur. Çocukların ilk medya araçlarını satın aldıkları yaş ortalaması  $6,18 \pm 2,37$ 'dir. Çocukların PMKÖ puan ortalamaları cinsiyetlerine ( $p=0,009$ ) ve annelerinin çalışma durumuna ( $p=0,021$ ) göre anlamlı farklılık göstermiştir. Çocukların ÇUAA ve PMKÖ puan ortalamaları arasında pozitif ve anlamlı bir ilişki bulundu ( $r=0,214$ ;  $p<0,001$ ).

**Sonuç:** Bu araştırma, medya araçlarının ilköğretim çağındaki çocuklarda kontrollü kullanılması gerektiğini göstermektedir. Bu hem çocuğun sağlıklı bir uyku alışkanlığı kazanması hem de bu nedenle oluşabilecek hastalıkların önlenmesi için gereklidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Çocuklar, ilköğretim, problemli medya kullanımı, uyku alışkanlıkları

### Introduction

With the advancements in technology, visual media tools have become indispensable for children, especially those born in the era of technology, with their expanding usage areas.

Some of these visual media tools may be listed as television, computers, tablets, and smartphones. The connection of these tools to the internet is also very important for children. Children, who can take care of almost everything online, spend long amounts of time with these devices.<sup>1</sup> Studies conducted

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in various countries have shown that media use is becoming increasingly more prevalent among children, and the time spent in front of screens increases every year.<sup>2-5</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends keeping children under the age of 2 away from visual media tools as much as possible, limiting media use to 1-2 hours for children aged between 2 and 5 as long as these children are allowed to watch quality programs/content under parental supervision, and keeping this time limited to at most 2 hours for children older than 6 years old.<sup>6</sup> Various studies have demonstrated that the usage of media tools to a higher extent than recommended may lead to emotional, physical, and mental problems in children. Some problems that emerge in relation to long-term screen usage include negative outcomes such as obesity, unhealthy dietary habits, vision disorders, loneliness, social isolation, anxiety, aggression, attention problems, increased prevalence of impulsive behaviors, distortions in the perception of reality, low academic success, and reduced levels of creative thinking.<sup>7</sup> Evidence showing that the use of digital technologies affects sleep negatively is constantly accumulating. It was reported that sleep durations decreased with an increase in habits of keeping televisions, computers, or mobile phones in bedrooms in the early childhood period.<sup>8</sup> Other potential causes of shorter sleep among children include difficulty falling asleep after exposure to videos and games that involve violence during technological device usage and the prevention of melatonin secretion due to the blue light emitted by screens.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, using technology during the day may have an impact on how well you sleep at night. Technology use during the day results in shorter sleep durations and longer sleep onset times. Sleep length and the use of technological devices were found to be correlated.<sup>10</sup> Because poor or inadequate sleep habits affect the mental state, behaviors, academic success, and growth and development rates of children negatively, it is important to focus on the facilitation of a quality sleep pattern in children.<sup>11</sup> Due to the limited studies in this age group, this study aimed to investigate the effects of problematic media use on sleep habits in primary school children.

### Research Questions

1. Do the descriptive characteristics of children affect their sleep habits?
2. Do the descriptive characteristics of children affect their problematic media use?
3. Is there a connection between children's sleep patterns and problematic media use?

## Materials and Methods

### Design

This is a descriptive and cross-sectional study.

### Population and Sample

Between December 2022 and March 2022, this survey was conducted at primary schools in the Turkish province of Zonguldak. The study's participants were parents of the 4,680 students who were enrolled at primary schools in

the provincial center connected to the Zonguldak Provincial Directorate of National Education. It was established that a minimum of 355 parents should be included in the study based on the formula employed for a known population (<https://www.calculator.net/sample-size-calculator.html>), and the parents of 370 students were contacted. Primary school 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were included in the study. Simple random sampling method was used in the selection of the schools included in the research. Three primary schools in Zonguldak city center were determined by lottery and included in the sample. The number of students to be taken from each school was determined by stratifying according to the number of students in the school. The students in the classes determined by lottery method from each grade level constituted the sample of the research.

### Data Collection Instruments

**Personal information form:** This form, which was prepared by the researchers, consisted of two parts. The first part included 12 questions on the sociodemographic characteristics of the children and their parents, whereas the second part included 5 questions on the visual media use and sleep characteristics of the children.

**Problematic media use measure (PMUM):** The scale was developed by Domoff et al.<sup>12</sup> to identify problematic media usage in children in the age group of 4-11. The 9-item short form of the scale has a unidimensional structure. It is a 5-point Likert-type scale where each item is scored from 1 (never) to 5 (always). The total score of PMUM is obtained by summing the scores of all items. High scores indicate the presence of problematic usage. The scale, which is filled out by parents based on the behaviors of their children, does not measure the problematic usage of a specific media tool, but it measures the problematic usage of visual media tools in general (e.g., television, computer, tablet, phone), namely screen addiction. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the short form of the scale was reported as 0.93.<sup>12</sup> The Turkish validity study of the scale was conducted by Furuncu and Öztürk.<sup>13</sup> In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the short form of the scale was found as 0.785.

**Children's sleep habits questionnaire (CSHQ):** CSHQ was created by Owens et al.<sup>14</sup> in 2000 to examine children's sleep patterns and sleep-related issues. The short variant of the CSHQ has 33 items. The scale's items assess factors like procrastination at bedtime, sleep latency, sleep duration, anxiety during sleep, nighttime awakenings, parasomnias, disturbed breathing while sleeping, and dysfunction throughout the day. The scale is retroactively completed by parents. The parent is asked to evaluate their child's sleeping patterns throughout the past week. The cut-off point on the scale is 41, and scores above this value are regarded as "clinically significant". Fiş et al.<sup>15</sup> examined the scale's validity in Turkish. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the scale was found as 0.796.

### Data Collection

The data were collected face-to-face or online via Google forms based on the preferences of the parents.

## Ethical Aspect of the Study

To conduct the study, approval was obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University (approval number: 394, date: 30.11.2021), and permission was received from the schools where the data would be collected.

**Participant consent:** Informed consent was obtained from the parents of the children who would be enrolled in the study before they were informed of the study's purpose and methods. The parents who would participate in the study were given the assurance that their private information would be kept private and that the data gathered would only be used for the intended aims of the study.

## Statistical Analysis

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 25.0 package program was used to statistically analyze the study's data in a computer setting. Descriptive statistics like percentage distributions and mean values were employed, and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was done to see if the data were normally distributed. Based on a few characteristics, the children's problematic media use levels and sleep patterns were compared using an independent samples t-test, and correlation analyses were used to determine the links between the variables. Numerical variables are indicated with standard deviation values after the mean. The level of statistical significance was accepted as  $p < 0.05$ .

## Results

The mean age of the children was found as  $8.12 \pm 1.53$ , the mean age of their mothers was  $36.35 \pm 6.11$ , the mean age of their fathers was  $39.14 \pm 6.29$ , and the mean number of their siblings was  $1.49 \pm 1.08$ . While 51.9% of the children ( $n=192$ ) were male, 48.1% ( $n=178$ ) were female. It was found that 96.8% of the parents of the children ( $n=358$ ) were married. While 35.7% of the mothers ( $n=132$ ) had university or higher degrees, 37.8% of the fathers ( $n=140$ ) had university or higher degrees. Homemakers constituted 64.9% of the mothers ( $n=240$ ), and 46.2% of the fathers ( $n=171$ ) were working as laborers. It was found that 88.1% of the participants ( $n=326$ ) had nuclear families (Table 1). The most frequently used visual media tools by the children were television (31.9%,  $n=118$ ), mobile phones (31.3%,  $n=116$ ), and tablets (29.5%,  $n=109$ ) (Table 2). The mean age at which the first media tools were purchased for the children was determined as  $6.18 \pm 2.37$ . The mean CSHQ score of the children was found as  $63.77 \pm 10.23$ , whereas their mean PMUM score was  $17.80 \pm 7.80$ . The mean PMUM scores of the children varied significantly based on their genders ( $p=0.009$ ) and the employment statuses of their mothers ( $p=0.021$ ). The mean scores of the male children and those whose mothers were working were higher in comparison to the mean scores of the female children and those whose mothers were not working. It was determined that the mean CSHQ scores of the children varied significantly based on the working statuses of their fathers, and the mean score of the children whose fathers were not working was higher than that of those whose fathers were working ( $p=0.005$ ) (Table 3). A positive, significant, and

weak relationship was identified between the mean CSHQ and PMUM scores of the children ( $r=0.214$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). Accordingly, problematic media usage would lead to a significant increase in the prevalence of sleep problems among the children.

**Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of the children and their parents**

Characteristics	n	%
<b>Gender of children</b>		
Female	178	48.1
Male	192	51.9
<b>Marital status of parents</b>		
Married	358	96.8
Single (divorced)	12	3.2
<b>Mother's education status</b>		
Illiterate	6	1.6
Primary school	75	20.3
Secondary school	68	18.4
High school	89	24.0
University or higher	132	35.7
<b>Father's education status</b>		
Illiterate	2	0.5
Primary school	56	15.2
Secondary school	54	14.6
High school	118	31.9
University or higher	140	37.8
<b>Mother's occupation</b>		
Civil servant	77	20.8
Laborer	20	5.4
Retired	3	0.8
Unemployed	240	64.9
Other	30	8.10
<b>Father's occupation</b>		
Civil servant	110	29.7
Laborer	171	46.3
Retired	16	4.3
Unemployed	7	1.9
Other	66	17.8
<b>Family type</b>		
Nuclear family	326	88.1
Extended family	32	8.7
Fragmented family	12	3.2
Total	370	100

**Table 2. Media tools used by the children**

Tools	n	%
Television	118	31.9
Mobile phone - smartphone	116	31.3
Tablet	109	29.5
Computer (desktop or notebook)	21	5.7
Video game console (e.g., PlayStation)	6	1.6
Total	370	100



**Table 3. Comparisons of PMUM and CSHQ scores based on some characteristics of the children and their parents**

Characteristics	PMUM X±SD	CSHQ X±SD
<b>Gender</b>		
Female (178)	16.70±7.45	63.24±9.78
Male (192)	18.80±7.99	64.26±10.61
p-t	<b>0.009-2.607</b>	0.338-0.957
<b>Mother's education status</b>		
Illiterate (6)	18.66±9.6	71.0±13.52
Primary school (75)	17.76±8.17	64.46±10.54
Secondary school (68)	17.50±7.34	64.94±10.50
High school (89)	17.76±8.43	62.35±8.79
University or higher (132)	17.95±7.38	63.40±10.56
p-t	0.987-0.138	0.307-3.609
<b>Father's education status</b>		
Illiterate (2)	11.50±2.12	72.50±20.50
Primary school (56)	16.78±7.49	65.67±11
Secondary school (54)	16.16±7.48	63.38±8.97
High school (118)	18.19±8.41	62.70±9.80
University or higher (140)	18.58±7.45	63.94±10.55
p-t	0.275-3.880	0.365-3.248
<b>Order of birth</b>		
First child (216)	18.04±7.97	64.27±10.83
One of the middle children (38)	18.34±8.16	61.50±9.03
Last child (116)	17.13±7.35	63.59±9.37
p-t	0.590-1.056	0.212-3.103
<b>Marital status of parents</b>		
Married (358)	17.67±7.77	63.75±10.22
Single (12)	21.41±7.90	64.33±10.77
p-t	0.07-149.5	0.807-205.0
<b>Mother's working status</b>		
Working (127)	19.08±8.26	63.33±9.71
Not working (243)	17.12±7.48	64.0±10.49
p-t	<b>0.021-2.312</b>	0.536-0.605
<b>Father's working status</b>		
Working (347)	17.74±7.67	63.30±9.76
Not working (23)	18.57±9.70	70.91±14.13
p-t	0.927-394.5	<b>0.005-260.5</b>
<b>Family type</b>		
Nuclear family	17.65±7.73	63.47±10.04
Extended family	17.93±8.38	66.65±11.67
Fragmented family	21.41±7.90	64.33±10.77
p-t	0.199-3.228	0.280-2.545
<b>Most frequently used media tool by children</b>		
Television	15.59±6.61	62.30±9.36
Notebook or desktop computer	18.21±6.73	61.78±11.95
Tablet	16.86±7.25	65.26±10.02
Mobile phone	21.36±8.64	64.18±9.96
Video game console (e.g., PlayStation)	13.00±1.00	75.00±32.94
p-KW	0.278-5.095	0.639-2.533
PMUM: Problematic media use measure, KW: Kruskal-Wallis test, CSHQ: Children's sleep habits questionnaire, SD: Standard deviation		

## Discussion

This study was conducted to determine the effects of problematic media use among children on their sleep habits. Consequently, it was determined that the mean PMUM scores of the children whose parents were included in the study varied significantly based on their genders and their mothers' working statuses, while their mean CSHQ scores varied significantly based on the working statuses of their fathers. A positive, significant, and weak relationship was identified between the mean CSHQ and PMUM scores of the children. In this study, the mean age at which the first media tools were purchased for the children was determined as 6.18±2.37. Previous studies have determined that the age of visual media use among children has dropped substantially.<sup>16-18</sup> Kulakci-Altintas<sup>18</sup> reported that 81.8% of children in the age group of 0-3 were using at least one technological device, and the age of first media consumption dropped down to preschool ages. The further decrease in the ages of using media tools among children by almost every year in previous studies was in parallel with the results of this study. In this study, the most frequently used visual media tools by the children were television, mobile phones, and tablets. Previous studies also reported mobile phones<sup>19</sup> and tablets<sup>20</sup> as the most frequently used visual media tools in children. Among students who participated in the study by Ergin et al.<sup>16</sup>, 79.8% were found to own mobile phones. While a study that was conducted at the beginning of the 2000s identified the most frequently used visual media tool as television<sup>21</sup>, with the development of technology and increased purchasing power today, it is seen that television has been replaced by mobile phones/smartphones and tablets. The common finding of our study and other studies was that television, mobile phones, and tablets were frequently used visual media devices. In our study, there was a significant difference in the mean PMUM scores of the children based on gender, and the male children had a higher mean score than the female children. Koyuncuoğlu<sup>22</sup> also reported that male children spent more time in front of a screen. Çelik<sup>23</sup> and McArthur et al.<sup>24</sup>, on the other hand, stated that there was no significant difference between male and female children in terms of screen usage times. In this study, it was determined that the mean PMUM scores of the children varied depending on the working statuses of their mothers, and the mean score of the children whose mothers were working was significantly higher than that of the children whose mothers were not working. This result was thought to be related to the potential lack of sufficient supervision of the children's media use by their working mothers. A positive, significant, and weak relationship was found between the mean CSHQ and PMUM scores of the children whose parents were included in this study. Accordingly, problematic media usage would lead to a significant increase in sleep problems. This issue leads to problems in the performance of activities of daily living, adaptation problems, and difficulty falling asleep at night.<sup>25-27</sup> Previous studies similarly indicated that the presence of computers or mobile phones in the bedrooms of children and

the use of media tools in bed before sleep led to sleep latency and shortened sleep duration.<sup>8,28</sup> Jiang et al.<sup>28</sup> found long durations of playing games on mobile phones to be associated with shorter sleep durations and sleeping at later hours. Cespedes et al.<sup>8</sup> reported that sleep durations decreased along with increased habits of keeping computers or mobile phones in the bedrooms of children in the early childhood period. Consequently, according to the results of our study, considering the realization that the rates of problematic media usage are constantly increasing, it may be expected to encounter the necessity to deal with screen addiction, which is a new form of addiction, and this will lead to an increase in sleep problems on a psychopathological level. Families should warn their children about problematic media usage behaviors. Social media usage should also be limited and under parental supervision.

## Conclusion

This study revealed that there is both a positive and statistically significant relationship between problematic media use and sleep problems in primary school children. It was found that children's problematic media use differed according to their gender and working status of their mothers, and the mean scores of boys and children whose mothers worked were higher. It is possible to conclude that when the use of media tools decreases and internet use increases, the amount and quality of sleep will deteriorate.

## Ethics

**Ethics Committee Approval:** To conduct the study, approval was obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University (approval number: 394, date: 30.11.2021), and permission was received from the schools where the data would be collected.

**Informed Consent:** Informed consent was obtained from the parents of the children who would be enrolled in the study before they were informed of the study's purpose and methods. The parents who would participate in the study were given the assurance that their private information would be kept private and that the data gathered would only be used for the intended aims of the study.

## Authorship Contributions

Concept: T.K.A., Design: M.Ö., T.K.A., Data Collection or Processing: T.K.A., B.A., Analysis or Interpretation: M.Ö., T.K.A., B.A., Literature Search: M.Ö., T.K.A., B.A., Writing: M.Ö., T.K.A., B.A.

**Conflict of Interest:** No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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# Prevalence and Awareness of Restless Leg Syndrome in Medical Students and Associated Self Reported Sleep Problems

## Tıp Fakültesi Öğrencilerinde Huzursuz Bacaklar Sendromu Sıklığı ile Farkındalığı ve Bildirilen İlişkili Uyku Sorunları

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### Abstract

**Objective:** Restless legs syndrome (RLS) symptoms may cause stress and anxiety, which lead to functional disturbances. In several studies, awareness about RLS was found to be low in physicians and medical students who live through a rigorous educational period. In this study, we aimed to investigate the frequency, risk factors, and awareness of RLS in medical students and associated sleep problems.

**Materials and Methods:** This cross-sectional analytical study included third- and fourth-year medical students. A questionnaire about sociodemographic characteristics and RLS parameters, including risk factors, diagnostic criteria, awareness, and sleep problems was applied to 354 students in a period of two months. Data were evaluated using chi-square, Fisher's exact test, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, student's t-test, and Mann-Whitney U test.

**Results:** There were 39 participants (11.1%) who fulfilled diagnostic criteria A of RLS based on the international classification of sleep disorders 3. The female-to-male ratio was 1.6:1. Lower income and family history were associated with RLS symptoms ( $p=0.003$ ,  $p=0.041$ ). Self-reported symptoms of anxiety and stress as well as functional impairment were associated with RLS ( $p=0.003$ ,  $p=0.004$ ). Depression and sleep problems were more frequent in participants experiencing RLS symptoms ( $p=0.005$ ,  $p=0.005$ ). Awareness about RLS was observed in those with probable RLS ( $p=0.003$ ), attending their neurology rotation did not affect awareness, and web sources were reported as the main sources about RLS-related data.

**Conclusion:** In this study, lower income, family history, depression as a comorbidity, poor sleep quality, anxiety, stress, and daytime dysfunctionality were associated with RLS symptoms. Awareness about RLS was quite low in medical students. To enhance the diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate referrals concerning RLS, awareness should be increased in medical students.

**Keywords:** Restless legs syndrome, awareness, sleep, medical students, questionnaire

### Öz

**Amaç:** Huzursuz bacak sendromu (HBS) semptomları, stres ve anksiyeteye neden olarak fonksiyonel bozukluklara neden olabilir. Çeşitli çalışmalarda, yoğun bir eğitim süreci geçiren tıp öğrencilerinde ve hekimlerde HBS konusundaki farkındalığın düşük olduğu bulunmuştur. Bu çalışmada tıp öğrencilerinde HBS sıklığını, risk faktörlerini, farkındalığını ve buna bağlı uyku problemlerini araştırmayı amaçladık.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Çalışma kesitsel, analitik bir çalışma olarak planlanmış ve üçüncü ile dördüncü sınıf tıp öğrencilerini kapsamaktadır. Sosyodemografik özellikler ile risk faktörlerini, tanı kriterlerini, farkındalığı ve uyku sorunlarını içeren HBS parametrelerinden oluşan anket 354 öğrenciye iki aylık sürede uygulanmıştır. Veriler ki-kare, Fisher's exact testi, Kolmogorov-Smirnov testi, students's t-testi ve Mann-Whitney U Testi ile değerlendirildi.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmamızda katılımcıların 39'u (%11,1) uluslararası uyku bozuklukları sınıflamasının üçüncü versiyonuna (*international classification of sleep disorders 3*) göre HBS tanı kriterleri A'yı karşılamıştı. Kadın-erkek oranı 1,6:1 idi. HBS belirtileri düşük gelir ve aile öyküsü ile ilişkiliydi ( $p=0,003$ ,  $p=0,041$ ). Katılımcının bildirdiği anksiyete ve stres semptomlarının yanı sıra fonksiyonel bozulma da HBS ile ilişkiliydi ( $p=0,003$ ,  $p=0,004$ ). HBS belirtileri yaşayan katılımcılarda depresyon ve uyku sorunları daha sıkı ( $p=0,005$ ,  $p=0,005$ ). Olası HBS olanlarda HBS farkındalığı gözlemlendi ( $p=0,003$ ), nöroloji rotasyonuna katılmak farkındalığı etkilemedi ve HBS ile ilgili verilerle ilgili ana kaynağın web kaynakları olduğu belirtildi.

**Sonuç:** Bu çalışmada, düşük gelir, aile öyküsü, komorbidite olarak depresyon, düşük uyku kalitesi, anksiyete, stres ve gündüz işlev bozukluğu HBS semptomlarıyla ilişkilendirilmiştir. Tıp öğrencilerinde HBS konusundaki farkındalık oldukça düşüktü. HBS ile ilgili tanı, tedavi ve uygun yönlendirmelerin artırılması için geleceğin hekimi olan tıp öğrencilerinde farkındalığın artırılması gerekmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Huzursuz bacak sendromu, farkındalık, uyku, tıp öğrencisi, anket

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## Introduction

In restless legs syndrome (RLS), also known as “Willis Ekbohm disease”, there is an urge to move the legs, which is usually accompanied by an uncomfortable or unpleasant sensation or the presence of this sensation is thought to be the result of this urge and these symptoms begin or worsen during the rest period, are relieved by movements such as walking and stretching, and often occur in the evening and at night and these symptoms cannot be explained by another medical or behavioral condition.<sup>1,2</sup> The current criteria used for diagnosis of RLS have been established by the international RLS study group, with some modifications by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine in international classification of sleep disorders 3 (ICSD-3).<sup>3-6</sup> Genetic predisposition and mechanisms related to iron metabolism, dopamine metabolism, circadian rhythm, as well as melatonin and neurotransmitters such as glutamate and gamma-aminobutyric acid, are present in the pathophysiology of RLS.<sup>7-9</sup> RLS is categorized into two groups: primary and secondary. For primary RLS diagnosis, there should not be any pathologies in physical, neurophysiological, or neuroradiological examinations or laboratory findings of the individuals presenting with RLS symptoms.<sup>6</sup> In the secondary form, various clinical conditions may accompany the RLS symptoms. The most frequent among them are iron deficiency, pregnancy, end-stage renal disease (uremia), thyroid dysfunction, parkinsonism, depression, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, diabetes mellitus, and multiple sclerosis.<sup>3,6</sup> The age of onset of the secondary form is late and its progression is rapid.<sup>6,7</sup>

RLS is more frequent in women, and family history is also a risk factor.<sup>3</sup> In literature, many studies have investigated RLS in different populations and age groups.<sup>6</sup> In a review article, it is mentioned that RLS diagnostic criteria are based on self-reported symptoms by the participants of the studies, and this may be behind the various prevalence rates of RLS reported in the literature.<sup>10</sup> In an earlier population-based study conducted by Sevim et al.<sup>11</sup> the prevalence of RLS was reported as 3.19%. In a large-scale study conducted in primary care practices across Europe, the estimated prevalence of physician-diagnosed RLS was found to be 3.5-4.4% in adult patients.<sup>12</sup> The prevalence was found to be 4.5% in a study of the general population, and the frequency increased in the fourth decade in women and in the sixth decade in men.<sup>13</sup> Sleep disturbances are considered to support the diagnosis of RLS.<sup>5,6</sup> In a study, it is reported that difficulty in falling asleep, which negatively affects quality of life, is associated with RLS symptoms.<sup>14</sup> RLS symptoms are associated with stress and anxiety, which may lead to functional disturbances.<sup>15</sup> This condition negatively effects functionality in many areas, such as school performance, social life, and mental status.<sup>14</sup> In patients whose RLS diagnosis is delayed due to late or misdiagnosis or inappropriate referrals and treatments, sleep quality deteriorates, which results in an increase in stress and anxiety levels.<sup>4-6</sup> In some studies, the awareness of RLS was found to be quite low in university students.<sup>16,17</sup> In our study, the objective was to reveal the awareness and the frequency of RLS, the risk factors of the disease, sleep problems, and coexisting

conditions, in a group of medical students who have attended and have not attended the sleep disorders course in a neurology curriculum.

## Materials and Methods

This cross-sectional analytical study was conducted at İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine in two months, which comprised the end period of the academic year. The “sleep disorders” course was in the neurology curriculum of the fourth-year students. We planned to include both the third- and fourth-year students, as the study plan was to differentiate between students who took the “sleep disorders” course and those who did not. The total number of third-year students was 513, and there were 567 fourth-year students. After a literature review, the researchers developed a 31-item questionnaire about sociodemographic characteristics, lifestyle (smoking, alcohol, and lack of regular exercise) and comorbid chronic diseases (iron deficiency anemia, chronic renal failure, diabetes mellitus, rheumatological diseases, thyroid disorders, multiple sclerosis, depression, and others). The rest of the questionnaire was about the RLS diagnostic criteria according to the ICSD-3, awareness of RLS, and presence of sleep disturbances. Preceded by a brief explanation about the study, the questionnaires were distributed to students in lecture halls and were collected after approximately 15 minutes. Awareness was defined as both having had the clinical rotation in the neurology department as an undergraduate and having prior knowledge about RLS. Students who fulfilled all of ICSD-3’s criteria A were considered as having RLS symptoms.<sup>3</sup> Fullfilment of criteria A meant the respondent probably experienced RLS. The participants provided their written informed consent to participate, and the study was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. The ethical committee approval was obtained from the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine (approval number: 54542, date: 08.02.2018).

## Statistical Analysis

Data were analyzed using the SPSS 21.0 computer package program. Numerical data were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation and median (minimum-maximum), categorical data were expressed as frequencies (n) and percentages (%). Chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test were used where necessary for categorical variables to evaluate the difference between the groups. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used for testing normal distribution of numerical data, student’s t-test was used in normal distribution conditions for the comparison of continuous variables between two independent groups; when the data was not normally distributed, Mann-Whitney U test was used. A p-value of <0.05 was accepted for statistical significance.

## Results

A total of 354 students consisting of 206 third-year and 148 fourth-year students participated. Among the participants, 166 were male (46.9%) and 188 were female (53.1%) and the median age was 21. The sociodemographic features of the participants are presented in Table 1.



<b>Variables</b>	<b>Study group; n (%) n=354 (100.0)</b>	<b>RLS absent; n (%) n=315 (89.0)</b>	<b>RLS present; n (%) n=39 (11.0)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Age</b> Mean $\pm$ SD Median (min-max)	20.86 $\pm$ 1.63 21 (19-39)	20.86 $\pm$ 1.67 21 (19-39)	20.87 $\pm$ 1.23 21 (19-26)	0.838
<b>Gender</b> Male Female	166 (46.9) 188 (53.1)	152 (91.6) 163 (86.7)	14 (8.4) 25 (13.3)	0.145
<b>Third grade</b> <b>Fourth grade</b>	206 (58.2) 148 (41.8)	181 (87.9) 134 (90.5)	25 (12.1) 14 (9.5)	0.428
<b>Married</b>	10 (2.8)	8 (80.0)	2 (20.0)	0.357
<b>Family income</b> Low Medium High	21 (5.9) 165 (46.6) 168 (47.5)	16 (76.2) 140 (84.8) 159 (94.6)	5 (23.8) 25 (15.2) 9 (5.4)	<b>0.003</b>
<b>Housing style</b> Dormitory and guest-house Shared with friends Shared with family Alone in house Other	120 (33.0) 122 (34.5) 85 (24.0) 25 (7.1) 2 (0.6)	104 (86.7) 113 (92.6) 75 (88.2) 22 (88.0) 1 (50.0)	16 (13.3) 9 (7.4) 10 (11.8) 3 (12.0) 1 (50.0)	0.208*
<b>Family history of RLS</b>	26 (7.3)	20 (76.9)	6 (23.1)	<b>0.041</b>
<b>Smoker</b>	30 (8.5)	26 (86.7)	4 (13.3)	0.672
<b>Alcoholic beverages consumer</b>	78 (22)	72 (92.3)	6 (7.7)	0.288
<b>Exercising regularly</b>	87 (24.6)	80 (92.0)	7 (8.0)	0.308
<b>Presence of comorbid conditions</b> Depression Rheumatologic disease Iron deficiency Thyroid disorders Diabetes mellitus Multiple sclerosis Other*	11 (3.1) 2 (0.6) 19 (5.4) 12 (3.4) 2 (0.6) 1 (0.3) 26 (7.3)	7 (63.6) 2 (100.0) 17 (89.5) 10 (83.3) 2 (100) 0 22 (84.6)	4 (36.4) 0 2 (10.5) 2 (16.7) 0 1 (100.0) 4 (15.4)	<b>0.005</b> 1 0.944 0.525 1 0.11 0.46
<b>Regular medication use**</b>	45 (12.7)	40 (88.9)	5 (11.1)	0.983
Chi-square test and *Fisher's exact test were used				
*: Gilbert syndrome, lumbar disc herniation, migraine, polycystic ovary syndrome, acne, seasonal allergic rhinitis, supraventricular tachycardia				
**: Antidepressants, antihistamines, vitamins and iron supplements etc. for the comorbid conditions				
SD: Standard deviation, min: Minimum, max: Maximum, RLS: Restless legs syndrome				

RLS frequency did not differ between third-year and fourth-year students. There were no differences between mean age, marriage status, housing style, and frequency of genders in RLS-present and RLS-absent groups. Students living with their friends in student houses comprised 34.5%. Those coming from a high-income family reported fewer RLS symptoms ( $p=0.003$ ). Participants with a family history of RLS were significantly more frequent in the group with RLS ( $p=0.041$ ). In this group, family members with RLS included mostly the mother and the mother's sister, with frequencies of 2.5% and 1.4%, respectively (Table 1). In the present study, participants who reported fulfilled criteria A were considered to have RLS symptoms/sensations (Table 2). Lifestyle risk factors such as smoking and lack of regular exercise were not significant between those experiencing

criteria A symptoms and those who were not (Table 1). Twelve participants had medical conditions that explained their RLS symptoms. Among them, two (0.6%) were diagnosed with RLS, two (0.6%) tapped their feet habitually, one (0.3%) had a lumbar disc herniation, two (0.6%) experienced nocturnal leg cramps, two (0.6%) experienced myalgia, one (0.3%) had edema and two (0.6%) experienced venous stasis. Among those in whom RLS sensations were present, 20 (37%) students reported that their RLS symptoms caused significant anxiety and stress ( $p=0.003$ ). Functional interference in social, work, behavioral, and mental issues were significantly reported by eight (38.1%) students in the RLS sensations present group ( $p=0.004$ ) (Table 3). Sleep problems were significant in those with RLS symptoms ( $p=0.005$ ). Anxiety and stress were reported



in 15.3% students. Among those who did not report anxiety and stress symptoms, 6.3% were diagnosed with RLS ( $p=0.003$ ). Among 11 students who reported to have depression, there were four diagnosed with RLS ( $p=0.005$ ). Among participants who fulfilled the RLS criteria, two students reported to have diabetes mellitus, one student had multiple sclerosis, two had iron deficiency anemia, and two had thyroid disorders. Association between sleep problems and RLS is shown in Table 4. Presence of RLS was significantly more frequent in participants with sleep problems ( $p=0.005$ ). Participants were asked to indicate if they had problems other than those mentioned with RLS criteria regarding sleep. A total of 13 (3.7%) people stated that they had other sleep problems apart from these. Among these people, only one (7.7%) person had RLS, and no significant relationship was found ( $p=0.696$ ). Individuals were asked whether they have consulted a physician at any time about their sleep problems. There was no significant relationship between referral to a physician and the presence of RLS ( $p=0.357$ ) (Table 4). A total of 157 (44.4%) participants stated that they had knowledge about RLS, and among them 25 (15.9%) participants were diagnosed with RLS. A statistically significant relationship was found between having knowledge about the disease and having RLS ( $p=0.008$ ). Information sources of the participants about RLS were questioned. The internet (64 people, 18.1%) was the most frequent information source (Table 5). No statistically significant relationship was found between the information source used and RLS presence ( $p=0.959$ ). As far as we know, there is no scale to assess awareness about RLS. Both participating in a

neurology clerkship and having prior knowledge about RLS were considered as presence of awareness. There were no differences between third- and fourth-year students in terms of presence of all criteria for RLS, presence of risk factors, and awareness. Among the 131 (37%) participants who had awareness, 23 (17.6%) fulfilled criteria A. A statistically significant correlation was found between awareness and the presence of RLS sensations in criteria A ( $p=0.003$ ).

## Discussion

In the present study, the presence of symptoms, risk factors, and awareness related to RLS in medical students were investigated, and RLS criteria A were met in 11.1% of the third- and fourth-year medical students, which is compatible with the literature. In studies conducted with medical students, RLS prevalence was found to be 16.9% in Turkey, 8% in Pakistan, and 10% in Egypt.<sup>17-19</sup> In another recent study conducted with both medical students and residents in Turkey, RLS was present in 9% of the participants.<sup>20</sup> The female gender has a greater risk concerning RLS.<sup>3</sup> In a population-based study, Sevim et al.<sup>21</sup> have reported that the prevalence of RLS is 3.9% for females and 2.45% for males, and the female-to-male ratio is 1.6:1.<sup>21</sup> In another study in Turkey among medical faculty students, the frequency of RLS symptoms was found to be 18.4%, and they were more frequent in females than males: 23% vs 13%.<sup>16</sup> In the present study, the median age of the students was 21, and no differences were found between genders in terms of frequency of RLS. The female-to-male ratio of RLS presence was 1.6:1, supporting the literature. In a study conducted with young people, RLS affected 1% of participants, and family history was found to be associated with RLS.<sup>15</sup> Family history of RLS was present in 23.1% of our participants diagnosed with RLS, which is significant and consistent with related literature. This may be associated with the involvement of genetical, factors in RLS etiology.<sup>5</sup> In our study, RLS symptoms were observed less frequently in medical students from high-income families. In other studies also, low socioeconomic status was found to be associated with RLS presence.<sup>10</sup> Some studies have revealed a significant association between RLS and smoking, alcohol and caffeine intake, pregnancy, diet, and inadequate exercise.<sup>10</sup> In our study, there were no significant relationships with these risk factors. Iron deficiency anemia also plays a role in pathophysiology.<sup>3</sup> RLS risk increases in patient groups who are at risk for insufficient iron levels.<sup>22</sup> In our study, two of 19 (5.4%) students who reported to have iron deficiency anemia had probable RLS, and only two out of 354 medical students had diabetes mellitus, and none of them had RLS. RLS is associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus, and in diabetic patients polyneuropathy has been found to be a risk factor for RLS.<sup>23</sup> Studies have reported that the prevalence of RLS in diabetic patients is 17.7 % or 27%.<sup>23,24</sup> In this current study, RLS sensations were more frequent in medical students with depression. The secondary causes of RLS involve a broad range of chronic conditions. Our study group consisted of young people with a median age of 21, so accompanying chronic conditions were not frequent and presence of RLS was not

Table 2. Presence of RLS sensations (criteria A*) in participants	
Criteria A	Study group, n (%)
	n=354 (100.0)
<b>Criteria A</b> Do you feel an urge to move the legs usually because of an uncomfortable sensation?	
Yes	160 (45.2)
No	194 (54.8)
<b>Criterion A1</b> Does this urge to move begin or worsen during rest?	
Yes	87 (24.6)
No	267 (75.4)
<b>Criterion A2</b> Does this urge to move relieved by walking or stretching?	
Yes	175 (49.4)
No	179 (50.6)
<b>Criterion A3</b> Does this urge to move at rest occur or worsen in the evening or night?	
Yes	70 (19.8)
No	284 (80.2)
*Criteria A (A1, A2, A3) is fulfilled in 39 (11%) participants RLS: Restless legs syndrome	

Table 3. Association of criteria B and C with RLS criteria A sensations				
Criteria B and C	Study group; n (%) n=354 (100.0)	RLS criteria A sensations has not been fulfilled; n (%) n=315 (89.0)	RLS criteria A sensations present; n (%) n=39 (11.0)	p
<b>Criterion B*</b> Do you have a medical condition which you think will explain RLS symptoms?*** Yes No	12 (3.4) 342 (96.6)	10 (83.3) 305 (89.2)	2 (16.7) 37 (10.8)	0.525
<b>Criterion C***</b> Does any of present RLS symptoms cause anxiety and stress? Yes No	54 (15.3) 300 (79.4)	34 (63.0) 281 (93.7)	20 (37.0) 19 (6.3)	0.003
Does any of present RLS symptoms cause functional interference? Yes No	21 (5.9) 333 (94.1)	13 (61.9) 302 (90.7)	8 (38.1) 31 (9.3)	0.004
Do you have sleep problems? Yes No	102 (28.8) 252 (71.2)	80 (78.4) 235 (93.3)	22 (21.6) 17 (6.7)	0.005
*Criterion B: To differentiate RLS from other conditions mimicking RLS **Another medical condition (e.g., myalgia, venous stasis, leg edema, arthritis, leg cramps, positional discomfort, habitual foot tapping) ***Criterion C: Clinically significance of RLS: RLS symptoms causing concern, distress, sleep disturbance, or impairment in mental, physical, social, occupational, educational, behavioral, or other important areas of functioning RLS: Restless legs syndrome				

Table 4. Association of presence of RLS symptoms and sleep problems				
Questions	Study group; n (%) n=354 (100.0)	RLS (criteria A) absent; n (%) n=315 (89.0)	RLS (criteria A) present; n (%) n=39 (11.0)	p*
Do you feel urge to move or an uncomfortable sensation in legs which prevents falling asleep? Yes No	24 (6.8) 330 (93.2)	13 (54.2) 302 (91.5)	11 (45.8) 28 (8.5)	0.001
Do you wake up at night with leg cramps? Yes No	21 (5.9) 333 (94.1)	16 (76.2) 299 (89.9)	5 (23.8) 34 (10.2)	0.54
Do you have leg pain in the morning? Yes No	11 (3.1) 343 (96.9)	7 (63.6) 308 (89.8)	4 (36.4) 35 (10.2)	0.006
Does your sleeping partner tell that you have many kicks at night? Yes No	16 (4.5) 338 (95.5)	9 (56.3) 306 (90.5)	7 (43.7) 32 (9.5)	0.001
Have you consulted a physician about your sleep problems? Yes No	10 (2.8) 344 (97.2)	8 (80) 307 (89.2)	2 (20) 37 (10.8)	0.357
*Chi-square test is used RLS: Restless legs syndrome				

Table 5. RLS awareness				
Participant activities	Study group; n (%) n=354	RLS (criteria A) absent; n (%) n=315	RLS (criteria A) present; n (%) n=39	p
Rotation in neurology department /yes	268 (75.7)	235 (87.7)	33 (12.3)	0.169
Prior knowledge about RLS/yes	157 (44.4)	132 (84.1)	25 (15.9)	0.008
Neurology rotation and prior knowledge about RLS (both)	131 (37.0)	108 (82.4)	23 (17.6)	0.003
Sources of information about RLS				
School lectures	46 (13.0)	37 (80.4)	9 (16.9)	0.959
Web sources	64 (18.1)	54 (84.4)	10 (15.6)	
Visual media (radio - TV)	14 (4.0)	12 (85.7)	2 (2.2)	
Books and journals	10 (2.89)	9 (90.0)	1 (10.0)	
Health professionals	14 (4.0)	12 (85.7)	2 (14.3)	
RLS: Restless legs syndrome				

significant in those with chronic conditions except depression. Only the presence of depression in our participants was found to be associated with RLS symptoms. However, according to some studies, this relationship could be due to the side effects of antidepressants resulting in secondary RLS, or depression itself could be a result of RLS.<sup>25,26</sup>

RLS is a serious cause of sleep disturbances, and it decreases total sleep time. It has been reported that patients with RLS have increased symptoms of sleep deprivation and anxiety compared with individuals without RLS symptoms.<sup>27</sup> Sariyadin et al.<sup>18</sup> have also found that the sleep quality of students who have RLS is worse than that of healthy students.<sup>18</sup> In our study group, the presence of sleep disturbances, an urge to move or an uncomfortable sensation in the legs that prevents individuals from falling asleep, leg pain in the morning, and kicking at night were associated with low sleep quality and were significantly more frequent in those who had RLS. Difficulties in falling asleep, waking up frequently at night, and having difficulty in getting up in the morning were the most common problems mentioned by our participants. The sleep quality of people whose RLS diagnosis has been delayed due to misdiagnosis and misreferrals deteriorates with time and results in increased anxiety and stress levels.<sup>12</sup> We found that RLS symptoms are rare in students who do not experience anxiety or stress, and it may be possible that the presence of RLS symptoms is a reason for anxiety and stress. In a study conducted by Silva et al.<sup>14</sup> in adolescents and young adults, the reported frequency of RLS was 8.4%, and the quality of life of this group was worse. Moreover, in advanced cases, depression may accompany RLS because of impaired sleep quality and quality of life.<sup>5,26,28</sup> Sleep problems were reported by 102 of our participants, and only 10 (10%) of them had consulted a physician, which may be attributed to inadequate awareness. Previous studies have found awareness about RLS insufficient in both physicians and medical school students. In a former study, the rate of medical students who would consult a doctor for RLS symptoms was 23.3%.<sup>16</sup> In our study, participants with RLS reported symptoms that caused functional effects in various aspects of life. With the appropriate diagnosis, treatment, and guidance, the quality of life, sleep quality, and functionality of RLS patients can be enhanced. Nonpharmacological interventions like pneumatic compression and enabling sleep hygiene in addition

to mind and body exercises constitute an important part of the treatment to help relieve RLS symptoms.<sup>28-30</sup> Awareness did not differ between third- and fourth- year medical students. In the group with awareness, RLS symptoms were more frequent either in themselves or in their relatives than those with less awareness. This may be interpreted as the presence of RLS symptoms have alerted the students to learning more about RLS. In addition to lectures attended at school, the internet was the most frequent source of information, which is a matter of fact in this group of young scholars. Screening for RLS symptoms may enhance early diagnosis, treatment, and referral of patients with RLS. Early management of patients with RLS may improve their quality of life and functionality in many aspects.<sup>29</sup> RLS has been defined for years and can only be diagnosed using the diagnostic criteria; therefore, awareness should be increased in medical students, who will become future physicians.

### Study Limitations

The health-related problems of medical students are not discussed sufficiently in medical literature, so one of the strengths of this study is that it will add to the relevant literature. The large number of medical students participating in the study group is another strength of this study. There are some limitations of this study. A scale evaluating the sleep problems was not used, but the presence of any sleep problems was questioned. It is a single-center cross-sectional study and results cannot be generalized. Screening for RLS with questionnaires may lead to underdiagnosis or overdiagnosis, so patients who have RLS symptoms should be further examined by neurologists.

### Conclusion

Awareness and knowledge about RLS was quite low among our participants, and this supports the results of the studies conducted with other medical students. In our study, depression, family history of RLS, lower familial income, sleep problems, and awareness about RLS were found to be associated with the presence of RLS. This study may lead to new studies being conducted to manage differential diagnosis. Consultations about nonpharmacological treatments in appropriate cases, primary care interventions related to comorbidities, and risk factors such as iron replacement and referrals after screening

are the main interventions that family physicians can suggest in the management of RLS in primary care.

### Ethics

**Ethics Committee Approval:** The ethical committee approval was obtained from the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine (approval number: 54542, date: 08.02.2018).

**Informed Consent:** The participants provided their written informed consent to participate.

### Authorship Contributions

Concept: T.Y., G.B.Ş., N.T.S., Design: T.Y., N.T.S., Data Collection or Processing: T.Y., N.T.S., Analysis or Interpretation: T.Y., D.K., A.K.F., N.T.S., Literature Search: T.Y., D.K., A.K.F., G.B.Ş., Writing: T.Y., D.K., A.K.F., N.T.S.

**Conflict of Interest:** Gülçin Benbir Şenel is Editor-in-Chief in European Journal of Turkish Sleep Medicine. She had no involvement in the peer-review of this article and had no access to information regarding its peer-review. Other authors declared no conflict of interest.

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# Kronik Obstrüktif Akciğer Hastalığı Olan Bireylerin Uyku Kaliteleri ile Öfke Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesi

## Determination of Sleep Quality and Anger Levels of Individuals with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

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### Öz

**Amaç:** Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı (KOAH) olan bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Kesitsel tipte olan bu çalışma, Ocak-Ağustos 2023 tarihleri arasında Van Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi'nin göğüs hastalıkları servisinde yatan ve KOAH tanısı almış 195 birey ile gerçekleştirildi. Veriler, Epworth uykululuk ölçeği (EUÖ), Richard-Campbell uyku ölçeği (RCUÖ) ve sürekli öfke-öfke ifade tarz ölçeği (SÖÖTÖ) ile toplandı.

**Bulgular:** Bu çalışmaya katılan bireylerin yaş ortalamaları 67,81 (10,59) olup, 9,85 (9,27) yıl önce KOAH tanısı aldıkları belirlendi. EUÖ toplam puan ortalaması ile RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması arasında pozitif yönlü zayıf düzeyde anlamlı bir ilişki ( $r=0,278$ ;  $p<0,001$ ) bulunurken; EUÖ ve RCUÖ toplam puan ortalamaları ile SÖÖTÖ ölçeği alt boyutları puan ortalamaları arasında anlamlı düzeyde ilişki olmadığı saptandı ( $p>0,05$ ). KOAH tanısı, son bir yılda geçirilen KOAH atak sayısı ile RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması arasında negatif yönlü anlamlı ilişki olduğu saptandı ( $p<0,001$ ). Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı için küresel girişim I. evrede olanların, III ve IV. evredekilere göre uyku kalitelerinin daha iyi; gündüz uykululuk ve içe yönelik öfke düzeylerinin daha düşük olduğu bulundu. Hiç oksijen tedavisi almayan bireylerin ara sıra veya sürekli oksijen tedavisi alanlara göre içe yönelik öfke düzeylerinin daha düşük olduğu saptandı ( $p<0,05$ ).

**Sonuç:** KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kalitelerinin kötü, öfke düzeylerinin orta seviyede olduğu ve daha çok öfkelerini içe yönelttikleri bulundu. KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasında ilişki olmadığı bulundu. Hastalık şiddeti yüksek olan bireylerin bütüncül olarak ruh sağlığı profesyonelleri ile düzenli takip ve tedavisinin yapılması önerilebilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı, uyku kalitesi, öfke

### Abstract

**Objective:** It was aimed to examine the relationship between sleep quality and anger levels of individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

**Materials and Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted with 195 individuals with COPD hospitalized in the chest diseases ward of Van Training and Research Hospital between January and August 2023. Data were collected using the Epworth sleepiness scale (ESS), Richard-Campbell sleep scale (RCSS), and state-trait anger expression inventory (STAI).

**Results:** The mean age of the individuals who participated in this study was 67.81 (10.59) years and were diagnosed with COPD 9.85 (9.27) years ago. There was a weakly significant positive correlation ( $r=0.278$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) between the mean total score of the ESS and the mean total score of the RCSS, whereas there was no significant correlation between the mean total scores of the ESS and RCSS and the mean scores of the sub-dimensions of the STAI scale ( $p>0.05$ ). A significant negative correlation was found between the year of diagnosis of COPD, the number of COPD attacks in the last year, and the mean total score of RCSS ( $p<0.001$ ). It was found that those in global initiative for chronic obstructive lung disease stage I had higher sleep quality, lower daytime sleepiness, and internalized anger than those in stages III-IV. Individuals who never received oxygen therapy had lower levels of internalized anger than those who received occasional or continuous oxygen therapy ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** It was found that individuals diagnosed with COPD had poor sleep quality, and moderate anger levels and mostly expressed their anger inwardly. There was no relationship between sleep quality and anger levels of individuals diagnosed with COPD. It may be recommended that individuals with high disease severity should be followed up and treated regularly by mental health professionals in a holistic approach.

**Keywords:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, sleep quality, anger

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## Giriş

Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı (KOAH); öksürük, balgam ve ilerleyici hava akımı obstrüksiyonu ile kişide ciddi solunum sıkıntısı yaratan ve önemli bir mortalite/morbidite nedeni olarak gösterilen ağır bir hastalıktır.<sup>1</sup> KOAH, dünyada ölüm nedeni olarak üçüncü sırada gösterilirken, yılda üç milyondan fazla ölüme de sebep olmaktadır.<sup>2</sup> Artan hava kirliliği, sigara içme oranları ve nüfusun yaşlanması ile KOAH prevalansının artacağı ve 2060 yılına kadar KOAH ile ilişkili durumlardan dolayı yılda 5,4 milyondan fazla ölüm yaşanabileceği tahmin edilmektedir.<sup>1</sup> KOAH dünyada ve ülkemizde hastalık yükünde önemli bir paya sahip olması, ekonomik ve sosyal sonuçları nedeniyle önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunudur.<sup>3</sup>

KOAH'ta, akciğer yapısında değişimler meydana gelmekte; diyafram fonksiyonu ve gaz alışverişi bozulmakta, sonucunda ise bireyde ciddi hipoksemi ve hiperkapni görülmektedir. Buna bağlı olarak bireylerin büyük bir kısmının uyumakta güçlük çektiği, sık sık uyandığı veya gündüzleri uyuklama sorunu yaşadıkları bildirilmektedir.<sup>3,4</sup> Uyku sırasında özellikle hızlı göz hareketleri (*rapid eye movement-REM*) uykusunda KOAH tanılı bireyin oksijen seviyesi ciddi oranda düşmekte ve azalmış ventilasyon sonrası satürasyon düşüklüğü derinleşmektedir.<sup>5</sup> Ciddi desatürasyonu deneyimleyen bireyin uykuya dalmaktan korkar hale gelebildiği de görülmektedir.<sup>4</sup> Literatürde, KOAH tanılı bireylerin yaklaşık %70'inde uyku kalitesinin düştüğü<sup>6</sup> ve uykusuzluğa bağlı olarak bireylerde; ajitasyon, laterji, konsantrasyon bozukluğu, bellek zayıflaması, verimlilik ve performansta azalma, çevreye ilgisizlik, sosyal aktivitelerde azalma ve yaşam kalitesinde azalma olduğu bildirilmektedir.<sup>4,7-10</sup> Uykusuzluğun, bu gibi olumsuz etkileri sonucunda bireyin fiziksel sağlığı daha fazla olumsuz yönde etkilenebilmektedir.<sup>8</sup> KOAH'ta etkin bir tedavi için; fiziksel sağlığın yanı sıra ruhsal sağlığında dikkatle ele alınması gerektiği bildirilmektedir.<sup>11</sup> Solunum yolu hastalıkları ile ruhsal sorunlar arasında yakın bir ilişki saptanmıştır.<sup>9,11</sup> Yapılan çalışmalarda sıklıkla KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku sorunları ile depresyon, anksiyete, stres düzeyleri arasında bir ilişki olduğu vurgulanmıştır.<sup>11-13</sup> Ancak öfke gibi tedavi sürecinde de önemli faktör oynayabilen duygunun KOAH tanılı bireylerde uyku kalitesi ile ilişkisinin değerlendirilmediği görülmüştür. Öfke normal ve sağlıklı bir duygudur. Ancak şiddeti ve ifade edilme şekli çok önemlidir. Şiddetli düzeyde bir öfke, kontrol edilmesi zor durumdur ve uygun olmayan tarzda ifade edilebilir.<sup>14</sup> Sosyal desteğe daha da ihtiyaç duyulan hastalık döneminde, dışa yöneltilen öfke zamanla bireyin sosyal ilişkilerini, aile içi ilişkilerini olumsuz etkileyebilmektedir.<sup>14,15</sup> İçe yöneltilen öfkede ise birey duygularını tam olarak ifade edemez, kendisini çaresiz veya suçlu olarak görebilir, sonucunda umutsuzluk, depresyon gibi ruhsal sorunlar yaşanabilmektedir.<sup>14</sup> KOAH tanısı aldıktan sonra bireyin yeteri kadar sosyal aktivitelere katılamaması, her an hastalığının alevlenme korkusunu yaşama, tekrarlı hastaneye yatışlarının olması, hayatının kısıtlanmış, engellenmiş hissetmesi gibi olumsuzluklar karşısında yoğun öfke duygusu yaşanabilir.<sup>15</sup> Üzerine alevlenme dönemlerinde artan solunum güçlüğüne bağlı uykusuzluk da eklenince bireyin öfke ve agresyon duyguları artabilir. Hastanın öfkeli olması tedavisini uygulayan ekibi zora

sokacak, hasta ile aralarında olan güven ilişkisine ve iletişimine yansiyacaktır.<sup>15</sup> Bu durum hastanın tedavi ve bakım süreçlerini, hastane yatış süreçlerini ve hastalığın prognozunu olumsuz yönde etkileyebilir.<sup>14,15</sup> KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkiyi değerlendiren uluslararası alanda çalışmaya rastlanmaz iken, ulusal alanda yapılmış sadece bir çalışmaya ulaşılmıştır.<sup>16</sup> Çalışmada obstrüktif uyku apne sendromu ile takip edilen hastalarda öfke düzeylerinin sağlıklı popülasyona göre daha yüksek olduğu ve uykusuzluk düzeyleri ile pozitif yönlü ilişkisi olduğu saptanmıştır.<sup>16</sup> Bu doğrultuda KOAH tanılı bireylerin öfke düzeylerini saptamak ve uykusuzluğun öfke düzeyleri üzerindeki etkisini öğrenmek, tedavi ve bakım süreçlerinde önlemlerin alınmasına, uygun girişimlerin planlanmasına ışık tutacaktır. Bu çalışmanın literatüre önemli ve güncel veriler kazandıracağı ve KOAH tanılı bireylerin tedavilerinin planlanmasına yol göstereceği düşünülmektedir.

## Araştırma Soruları

- KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ve öfke düzeyleri nedir?
- KOAH tanılı bireyler öfkelerini nasıl ifade etmektedir?
- KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasındaki ilişki nedir?
- KOAH tanılı bireylerin sağlık durumları ile uyku kaliteleri ve öfke düzeyleri arasında fark var mıdır?

## Gereç ve Yöntemler

### Araştırmanın Amacı

KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır.

### Araştırmanın Türü

Bu araştırma, kesitsel ve ilişki arayıcı olarak tasarlanmıştır.

### Araştırmanın Yapıldığı Yer ve Zaman

Bu araştırma, Ocak-Ağustos 2023 tarihleri arasında Türkiye'nin Doğu Anadolu Bölgesi'ndeki Van Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi'nin göğüs hastalıkları servisinde yatan ve KOAH tanısı almış bireylerle yapıldı.

### Araştırmanın Evren ve Örneklemi

Ocak-Ağustos 2023 tarih aralığında hastanenin göğüs hastalıkları servisine 286 KOAH tanılı bireyin yatışı olmuştur. Ancak bunların 48'i aynı hastaların tekrarlı yatışları idi. Bu nedenle bu araştırmanın evrenini 238 KOAH tanılı birey oluşturdu. Bilinen bir popülasyonda örneklem büyüklüğü formülü kullanılarak hesaplanan örneklem büyüklüğü %95 güven aralığı ve %5 hata payı ile 148 kişi olarak belirlendi. Bu, örneğe dahil edilecek minimum birey sayısını gösterir. Bu süreçte tüm bireylere ulaşılmaya çalışılmış ancak 43 kişi araştırma dışı bırakılmış (tıbbi durumu görüşmeye uygun olmayan 11 kişi, Türkçe konuşmayan 14 kişi, araştırmaya katılmayı kabul etmeyen 18 kişi) ve araştırma 195 katılımcı ile sonlandırıldı.

### Araştırmaya Dahil Edilme Kriterleri

Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı için küresel girişim (GOLD) kriterlerine göre KOAH tanısı almış olmak, iletişime engel



olacak ek fiziksel ve ruhsal bozukluğunun (bipolar veya psikotik bozukluklar) olmaması, kişinin tıbbi durumunun klinik görüşmelerin yapılmasına engel olmayacak düzeyde olması (şiddetli öksürük, dispne, konuşamama gibi durumların olmaması), araştırmaya katılmaya gönüllü olması, iletişim ve iş birliğine açık olmasıdır.

#### Araştırmanın Etik Boyutu

Bu çalışma Helsinki Bildirgesi ilkelerine uygun olarak yapıldı. Çalışma yapılmadan önce Atatürk Üniversitesi Hemşirelik Fakültesi Etik Kurulu'ndan (karar no: 2022-2/1, tarih: 25.02.2022) etik kurul onayı ve çalışmanın yapılacağı hastaneden kurum izni alındı. Katılımcılar araştırma hakkında bilgilendirilerek, sözlü ve yazılı onamları alındı.

#### Verilerin Toplanması

Kliniğe KOAH tanısı ile yatırılan bireyler belirlendi. Bireylerin, araştırmaya dahil etme kriterlerini karşılayıp karşılamadıkları belirlendi ve dahil edilme kriterlerini karşılayan katılımcılara öncelikle çalışmanın amacı anlatıldı, bilgilendirilmiş onam formları imzalatıldı. Araştırmacı tarafından her katılımcı ile özel görüşme odasında yaklaşık 30 dk kadar yüz yüze görüşmeler yapıldı ve görüşme esnasında katılımcıların verdikleri cevaplar yine araştırmacı tarafından anketlere işlendi.

#### Veri Toplama Araçları

Araştırma verileri; bilgi formu, Epworth uykululuk ölçeği (EUÖ), Richard-Campbell uyku ölçeği (RCUÖ) ve sürekli öfke-öfke ifade tarz ölçeği (SÖÖTÖ) ile toplandı.

**Bilgi formu:** Araştırmacılar tarafından ilgili literatür<sup>1,5,6</sup> temel alınarak geliştirilen form, bireylerin sosyodemografik (yaş, cinsiyet, evlilik durumu, eğitim durumu, ekonomik durumu vb.) ve sağlıkla ilgili özelliklerini (KOAH tanı süresi, GOLD evresi, oksijen tedavisi alma durumu, sigara içme durumu vb.) içeren 13 maddeden oluştu.

**EUÖ:** Johns<sup>17</sup> tarafından 1991 yılında geliştirilen ölçek, gündüz uyukluluğunun genel düzeyinin değerlendirilmesinde kullanılmaktadır. Türkçe güvenilirlik geçerliliği İzci ve ark.<sup>18</sup> tarafından yapılmıştır. Ölçek 8 soruyu içermekte ve 4'lü Likert tipindedir. Ölçekte kesim noktası bulunmamakta, toplam puan 0-24 arasında değişmektedir ve ölçek puanı arttıkça gündüz uyukluluk halinin de arttığı kabul edilir. İzci ve ark.<sup>18</sup>'nın<sup>18</sup> çalışmada Cronbach alfa değeri 0,86 olarak bulunurken; bu çalışmada Cronbach alfa değeri 0,88 olarak belirlendi.

**RCUÖ:** Ölçek, Richards<sup>19</sup> tarafından 1987 yılında geliştirilmiş ve gece uykusunun derinliğini, uykuya dalma süresini, uyanma sıklığını, uyandığında uyanık kalma süresini, uykunun kalitesini ve ortamdaki gürültü düzeyini değerlendirmektedir. Türkçe geçerlik ve güvenilirliği Karaman Özlü ve Özer<sup>20</sup> tarafından yapılmıştır. Altı maddeden oluşan ölçekte maddeler 0 ila 100 arasında yer alan çizelge üzerinden değerlendirilir. Ölçek toplam puanı hesaplanırken 5 madde değerlendirmeye alınmakta, 6. madde toplam puan değerlendirmesi dışında bırakılmaktadır. Ölçekte "0-25" arası puan çok kötü uykuyu, "26-50" arası puan kötü uykuyu, "51-75" arası puan iyi uykuyu, "76-100" arası puan çok iyi uykuyu ifade etmektedir. Karaman Özlü ve Özer'in<sup>20</sup>

çalışmasında Cronbach alfa değeri 0,91 olarak saptanırken; bu çalışmada Cronbach alfa değeri 0,90 olarak belirlendi.

**SÖÖTÖ:** Ölçek, Spielberger ve ark.<sup>21</sup> tarafından 1983 yılında geliştirilmiştir. Türkçe geçerlik ve güvenilirliği Özer<sup>22</sup> tarafından 1994 yılında yapılmıştır. Ölçek, 4'lü Likert tipinde ve toplamda 34 maddeden oluşmaktadır. Ölçek iki kısımdan oluşmaktadır ve ölçeğin ilk kısmında yer alan on madde sürekli öfke alt boyutunu oluşturmaktadır. Bu alt boyuttan alınacak puan 10-40 arasındadır. Puan arttıkça öfke düzeyinin yüksek olduğu şeklinde yorumlanır. Ölçeğin ikinci kısımda ise bireyin öfke ifade tarzı değerlendirilmektedir. Yirmi dört maddeden oluşan bu kısım yine 4'lü Likert tipinde ve içe yönelik öfke, dışa yönelik öfke, öfke kontrol olmak üzere üç alt boyuttan oluşmaktadır. Ölçekte ters madde bulunmamaktadır. Ölçek alt boyutları 8-32 puan aralığında hesaplanmaktadır ve puan arttıkça ilgili alt boyutun şiddetinin arttığı şeklinde yorumlanmaktadır. Özer'in<sup>22</sup> çalışmasında ölçek alt boyutlarının Cronbach alfa değerleri 0,69-0,91 aralığında bulunurken; bu çalışmada alt boyutların Cronbach alfa değerleri 0,83-0,96 aralığında olduğu saptandı.

#### İstatistiksel Analiz

Veriler, IBM SPSS 27.0 programı kullanılarak analiz edildi. Çarpıklık ve basıklık değerleri -2 ile +2 arasında ise veriler normal dağılıma sahip olarak kabul edildi.<sup>23</sup> Tanımlayıcı verilerin analizinde sayı, yüzdelik dağılım, aritmetik ortalama ve standart sapma kullanıldı. Ölçek maddelerinin karşılaştırılmasında ANOVA testi, bağımsız t-testi ve Kruskal-Wallis testi; ölçekler arasındaki ilişkiyi belirlemek için Pearson korelasyon analizi kullanıldı. Ölçeklerin güvenilirlik katsayılarının hesaplanmasında Cronbach alfa katsayısı kullanıldı.

#### Bulgular

Katılımcıların yaş ortalamalarının 67,81 (10,59) olduğu, %52,3'ünün erkek, %71,8'inin evli, %96,9'unun herhangi bir işte çalışmadığı bulundu (Tablo 1). Ayrıca katılımcıların 9,85 (9,27) yıl önce KOAH tanısını aldıkları, son bir yıl içerisinde geçirilen KOAH atak sayısı ortalamalarının 5,88 (5,84) olduğu, %55,7'sinin GOLD II. evrede, %52,3'ünün sürekli oksijen tedavisi aldığı, %45,1'inin eski sigara kullanıcısı olduğu bulundu (Tablo 2).

Katılımcıların EUÖ toplam puan ortalaması, RCUÖ alt boyutları ve toplam puan ortalaması ve SÖÖTÖ ölçeği alt boyutları puan ortalaması Tablo 3'te verildi. Buna göre puan ortalamaları arasındaki ilişki incelendiğinde; EUÖ toplam puan ortalaması ile RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması arasında pozitif yönlü zayıf düzeyde anlamlı bir ilişki bulunurken ( $r=0,278$ ;  $p<0,001$ ); EUÖ ve RCUÖ toplam puan ortalamaları ile SÖÖTÖ ölçeği alt boyutları puan ortalaması arasında anlamlı düzeyde ilişki olmadığı saptandı ( $p>0,05$ ). İçe yönelik öfke puan ortalaması ile yaş arasında negatif yönlü çok zayıf düzeyde anlamlı bir ilişki; içe yönelik öfke puan ortalaması ile KOAH tanı yılı arasında pozitif yönlü çok zayıf düzeyde anlamlı bir ilişki bulundu. RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması ile son bir yılda acil servise KOAH nedeniyle başvuru sayısı ve geçirilen KOAH atak sayısı arasında negatif yönlü çok zayıf düzeyde anlamlı bir ilişki olduğu belirlendi (Tablo 4). Bu çalışmada yer alan katılımcıların sağlık durumlarına ilişkin

özellikleri ile ölçek puan ortalamaları karşılaştırıldığında; cinsiyet ile RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması, sürekli öfke ve dışa yönelik öfke puan ortalaması bakımından gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark saptandı ( $p<0,05$ ). Erkeklerin uyku kalitesi, sürekli öfke ve dışa yönelik öfke düzeylerinin kadınlara göre daha yüksek olduğu belirlendi. GOLD evresi ile EUÖ ve RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması ve içe yönelik öfke puan ortalaması bakımından gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark saptandı ( $p<0,05$ ). GOLD IV. evrede olan bireylerin I. evredeki bireylere göre gündüz uykululuk ve içe yönelik öfke düzeylerinin daha yüksek olduğu bulundu. GOLD I. evrede olan bireylerin III ve IV. evredekilere göre; II. evrede olan bireylerinde IV. evredeki bireylere göre uyku kalitesi düzeylerinin daha yüksek olduğu belirlendi. İçe yönelik öfke düzeyleri ile oksijen tedavisi alma ve ek fiziksel hastalığa sahip olma durumu bakımından gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark saptandı ( $p<0,05$ ). Sürekli oksijen tedavisi alanların, hiç almayan ve ara sıra oksijen tedavisi alanlara göre içe yönelik öfke düzeylerinin daha yüksek olduğu; ek fiziksel hastalığı olan bireylerin, olmayanlara göre içe yönelik öfke düzeylerinin daha yüksek olduğu belirlendi. Sabah kendisini nasıl hissettiği durumu ile EUÖ ve RCUÖ toplam puan ortalaması bakımından gruplar arasında istatistiksel

Tablo 1. Katılımcıların sosyodemografik özellikleri (n=195)		
Özellikler	Minimum-maximum	Ort (SS)
Yaş (yıl)	30-100	67,81 (10,59)
	n	%
<b>Yaş aralığı (yıl)</b>		
30-50	11	5,6
51-65	68	34,9
66-80	96	49,2
81+	20	10,3
<b>Cinsiyet</b>		
Kadın	93	47,7
Erkek	102	52,3
<b>Medeni durum</b>		
Evli	140	71,8
Bekar	43	22,1
Boşanmış	12	6,2
<b>Eğitim durumu</b>		
Okuryazar	146	74,9
İlkokul/ortaokul mezunu	41	21,0
Lise/üniversite	8	4,1
<b>Çalışma durumu</b>		
Çalışıyor	6	3,1
Çalışmıyor	189	96,9
<b>Ekonomik durum</b>		
Yüksek	15	7,7
Orta	67	34,4
Düşük	113	57,9
Ort: Ortalama, SS: Standart sapma		

olarak anlamlı fark saptandı ( $p<0,05$ ). Sabah kendisini yorgun hisseden bireylerin, dinlenmiş hissedenlere göre gündüz uykululuk düzeyinin daha yüksek, uyku kalitesinin ise daha düşük olduğu bulundu (Tablo 5).

## Tartışma

Bu çalışmaya katılan KOAH tanılı bireylerin gündüz uykululuk düzeylerinin düşük, uyku kalitelerinin kötü düzeyde, öfke düzeylerinin orta düzeyde olduğu ve daha çok öfkelerini içe yönelik ifade ettikleri söylenebilir. KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasındaki anlamlı düzeyde bir ilişki bulunmamıştır. Hastalık şiddetinin ve atak sayısının artması, uyku kalitesini düşürdüğü; içe yönelik öfke düzeyini artırdığı saptandı. Uykunun, vücudun kendini yenilemesi, metabolizmal dengeyi sağlaması ve kişiyi bir sonraki güne hazırlaması gibi yararları vardır. Bireyin fiziksel ve ruhsal sağlığını sürdürebilmesinde özellikle gece uykusunun önemli olduğu vurgulanmaktadır.<sup>24</sup> Ancak yapılmış çalışmalarda KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kalitelerinin kötü olduğu ve gündüz uykululuk oranlarının arttığı görülmektedir.<sup>24,25</sup> Ülkemizde Güzey Aras ve ark.<sup>26</sup> tarafından yapılan çalışmada KOAH tanılı bireylerin yarısının kötü uyku kalitesine sahip olduğu bulunurken; Çalık Kütükcü ve ark.<sup>6</sup> çalışmasında KOAH tanılı bireylerin sağlıklı popülasyona göre gündüz uykululuk oranının arttığı ve %58,3'ünün uyku kalitesi kötü iken bu oranın sağlıklı popülasyonda %15 olduğu bulunmuştur. Bu çalışmada ise hastaların gündüz uykululuk düzeylerinin diğer çalışmalara göre daha düşük olduğu ve %44,6'sının kötü uyku kalitesinin olduğu bulundu. Bu çalışma hastane ortamında yapıldığından klinik tedavi ve bakım saatlerinin daha çok gündüz olması nedeniyle bireylerin gündüz uyku oranlarının daha düşük çıkmasında etkili olabilir. Uyku kalitesi üzerine çevresel, fizyolojik ve ruhsal faktörler etkili olmaktadır.<sup>27</sup> Özellikle KOAH tanılı bireylerin gündüz uykululuk ve uyku kalitesi üzerinde hastalık şiddetinin etkili olduğu vurgulanmaktadır.<sup>27,28</sup> Çalık Kütükcü ve ark.'nın<sup>6</sup> KOAH tanılı bireylerin akciğer fonksiyon değerlerinin azalması ile uyku kalitesinin azaldığı bulunmuştur. Ali Zohal ve ark.'nın<sup>29</sup> ve lerodiakonou ve ark.'nın<sup>27</sup> çalışmasında KOAH tanılı bireylerin GOLD evrelemesi arttıkça uyku kalitesinin azaldığı saptanmıştır. Bu çalışmada da GOLD III-IV evresinde olan bireylerin I-II evrelerinde olanlara göre uyku kalitelerinin daha kötü olduğu ve gündüz uykululuk düzeylerinin arttığı bulundu. Ayrıca bu çalışmada katılımcıların çoğu solunum sıkıntısı nedeni ile sık sık uyandığını ve sabah kendisini yorgun hissettiğini ifade etmiştir. KOAH tanılmasında kullanılan GOLD evreleme kriterlerinde öksürük, dispne, akciğer kapasitesi, oksijenlenme miktarı gibi özellikler değerlendirilir. Bu evreler I'den IV'e (hafiften ağıra) şeklinde gruplandırılmaktadır<sup>30</sup> ve semptomlar da ağırlaşmaktadır. Sonucunda bireylerin solunum sıkıntısından, öksürükten uyuyamadığı görülmektedir. Ayrıca hastalık şiddetini artırabilecek önemli diğer bir faktörde KOAH alevlenmeleridir. Yapılmış çalışmalarda KOAH'ta alevlenmeler arttıkça uyku kalitesinin bozulduğu bulunmuştur.<sup>31</sup> Bu çalışmada da literatür doğrultusunda geçirilen atak sayısı ve hastane başvuruları arttıkça uyku kalitesinin azaldığı saptandı.

Tüm bu bilgiler ışığında KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kalitelerinin bozulduğu ve hastalık şiddetinin artması ile bireylerin uyku kalitelerinin azaldığı, gündüz uykululuğunun arttığı söylenebilir. Bireyin yaş, cinsiyet, gelişim düzeyi ve çevresel ortamına göre de uyku gereksiniminin değiştiği bildirilmektedir.<sup>8</sup> Bu çalışmada kadınların uyku kalitesi düzeylerinin erkeklere göre daha kötü olduğu bulunmuştur. Gökoğlu Güler'in<sup>32</sup> çalışmasında kadınların ruhsal durumlarındaki dalgalanmalardan daha fazla etkilendiği

ve sonucunda stres ve anksiyete düzeylerindeki artış nedeniyle uyku kalitelerinin daha kötü olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Literatür doğrultusunda bu çalışmadaki kadınların da ruhsal açıdan daha fazla etkilenmiş ve buna bağlı uyku kalitelerinin olumsuz etkilenmiş olabileceği söylenebilir. KOAH tanılı bireylerin sıklıkla ruhsal sorunlar yaşadığı literatürde bildirilmektedir. Özellikle sıklıkla stres, anksiyete ve depresyon yaşadıkları vurgulanmaktadır.<sup>9,12,13</sup> Literatürde KOAH tanılı bireylerde öfke

Tablo 2. Katılımcıların sağlık durumları ile ilgili özellikleri (n=195)		
Özellikler	Minimum-maximum	Ort (SS)
KOA H tanı yılı	1-48	9,85 (9,27)
Son bir yılda geçirilen KOAH atak sayısı	1-35	5,88 (5,84)
Son bir yılda acil servise KOAH nedeniyle başvuru sayısı	1-20	3,54 (3,37)
	n	%
<b>KOA H tanı yılı</b>		
1-2 yıl	40	20,5
3-5 yıl	50	25,6
6-10 yıl	40	20,5
11-15 yıl	29	14,9
16-20 yıl	21	10,8
21+ yıl	15	7,7
<b>GOLD evresi</b>		
I. Evre	29	15,1
II. Evre	108	55,7
III. Evre	47	23,4
IV. Evre	11	5,7
<b>Oksijen tedavisi kullanma durumu</b>		
Hiç	13	6,7
Ara sıra	80	41,0
Sürekli	102	52,3
<b>Sigara içme durumu</b>		
Hiç içmedim	67	34,4
İçiyorum	40	20,5
Bıraktım	88	45,1
<b>Ek fiziksel hastalık</b>		
Evet	150	76,9
Hayır	45	23,1
<b>Uyku alışkanlığı ile ilgili sorunlar*</b>		
Hiç uyuyamıyorum	97	49,8
Uykuya dalmakta zorlanıyorum	138	70,8
Solunum sıkıntısı nedeni ile sık sık uyanıyorum	136	69,7
Gündüz uykuluyorum	51	26,2
Çok erken uyanıyorum	68	34,9
Uyku ile ilgili sorunlarım var (kabus görme, horlama vb.)	105	53,9
<b>Sabah kendisini nasıl hissettiği durumu</b>		
Yorgun	149	76,4
Dinlenmiş	46	23,6
*: Birden fazla seçenek işaretlenmiştir		
Ort: Ortalama, SS: Standart sapma, KOAH: Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı		

**Tablo 3. Katılımcıların EUÖ, RCUÖ ve SÖÖTÖ puan ortalamaları**

Ölçekler		Minimum-maximum	Ort (SS)
EUÖ	Toplam	0-21	5,12 (5,00)
RCUÖ	Uyku derinliği	0-90	39,40 (23,09)
	Uykuya dalma	0-90	39,82 (23,07)
	Uyanma sıklığı	0-90	37,93 (22,47)
	Uyanık kalma süresi	0-90	39,26 (23,09)
	Uyku kalitesi	0-100	38,79 (23,73)
	Toplam	0-92	39,07 (22,28)
SÖÖTÖ	Sürekli öfke	10-40	25,86 (9,08)
	İçe yönelik öfke	12-30	21,61 (2,96)
	Dışa yönelik öfke	8-32	20,70 (6,86)
	Öfke kontrol	8-32	20,24 (5,84)
		n	%
RCUÖ	Çok kötü uyku kalitesi (0-25 puan)	58	28,7
	Kötü uyku kalitesi (26-50 puan)	87	44,6
	İyi uyku kalitesi (51-75 puan)	17	8,7
	Çok iyi uyku kalitesi (76-100 puan)	35	17,9

EUÖ: Epworth uykululuk ölçeği, RCUÖ: Richard-Campbell uyku ölçeği, SÖÖTÖ: Sürekli öfke-öfke ifade tarz ölçeği, Ort: Ortalama, SS: Standart sapma

**Tablo 4. Katılımcıların EUÖ, RCUÖ ve SÖÖTÖ puan ortalamaları arasındaki korelasyon analizi**

		EUÖ toplam	RCUÖ toplam	Sürekli öfke	İçe yönelik öfke	Dışa yönelik öfke	Öfke kontrol
EUÖ toplam	r	1					
	p						
RCUÖ toplam	r	<b>0,278**</b>	1				
	p	<b>0,000</b>					
Sürekli öfke	r	-0,090	-0,079	1			
	p	0,209	0,275				
İçe yönelik öfke	r	0,072	0,024	<b>0,381**</b>	1		
	p	0,319	0,741	<b>0,000</b>			
Dışa yönelik öfke	r	-0,051	-0,069	<b>0,907**</b>	<b>0,416**</b>	1	
	p	0,477	0,340	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>		
Öfke kontrol	r	0,034	0,046	<b>-0,800**</b>	<b>-0,225**</b>	<b>-0,857**</b>	1
	p	0,641	0,528	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,002</b>	<b>0,000</b>	
Yaş (yıl)	r	-0,055	0,074	-0,099	<b>-0,233**</b>	-0,108	0,078
	p	0,447	0,302	0,169	<b>0,001</b>	0,132	0,278
KOAİ tanı yılı	r	-0,090	-0,093	0,007	<b>0,160*</b>	0,033	0,046
	p	0,212	0,195	0,921	0,025	0,652	0,523
Son bir yılda acil servise KOAH nedeniyle başvuru sayısı	r	-0,002	<b>-0,210**</b>	0,024	0,079	0,066	0,040
	p	0,978	<b>0,003</b>	0,736	0,273	0,360	0,580
Son bir yılda geçirilen KOAH atak sayısı	r	0,066	<b>-0,176*</b>	-0,008	0,062	0,023	0,053
	p	0,359	<b>0,014</b>	0,912	0,391	0,753	0,460

\*p<0,05, \*\*p<0,001

EUÖ: Epworth uykululuk ölçeği, RCU: Richard-Campbell uyku ölçeği, SÖÖTÖ: Sürekli öfke-öfke ifade tarz ölçeği, r: Pearson korelasyon analizi, KOAH: Kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı

gibi güçlü bir duygunun hangi düzeyde olduğu ve ifade edilme tarzının değerlendirilmediği görülmüştür.

Bu çalışmada KOAH tanılı bireylerin orta düzeyde öfke yaşadıkları ve daha çok öfkeyi içe yönelttikleri bulundu. Öfke temel duygulardandır ancak ifade ediliş biçimi önemlidir. Uygun şekilde ifade edilen öfke, bireyin sağlıklı ve enerjik hissetmesini sağlarken, öfkenin bastırılması veya uygun ifade edilmemesi bireyin kendisine ve çevresine zarar verebilmektedir.<sup>33</sup> Birey

öfkesini açığa vuramadığında kendisini çaresiz hissetmekte, acı çekmekte ve zamanla depresyona sebep olabilmektedir. Bazı bireyler ise kontrolsüzce öfkelerini dışa aktarabilirler ve dışarı sergiledikleri zorbalıklar ile çevrelerine zarar verici şekilde davranabilirler.<sup>14,34</sup> Kontrolsüz şekilde dışarıya atılan öfkenin, zamanla kişiler arası ilişkilerde sorunlara yol açtığı görülmektedir. Uygun olan ise öfkenin oluşturduğu durumla bireyin baş edebilmesi ve kontrollü bir şekilde duygu ve düşüncelerini

**Tablo 5. Katılımcıların sağlık durumu özelliklerine göre EUÖ, RCUÖ ve SÖÖTÖ puan ortalamalarının karşılaştırılması**

Özellikler	n	EUÖ toplam	RCUÖ toplam	Sürekli öfke	İçe yönelik öfke	Dışa yönelik öfke	Öfke kontrol
		Ort (SS)	Ort (SS)	Ort (SS)	Ort (SS)	Ort (SS)	Ort (SS)
<b>Cinsiyet</b>							
Kadın	93	4,89 (4,90)	35,25 (20,31)	24,24 (9,13)	20,49 (2,82)	19,43 (6,81)	20,54 (6,07)
Erkek	102	5,33 (5,10)	42,10 (22,60)	27,33 (8,83)	21,30 (3,04)	21,87 (6,73)	19,96 (5,64)
Test	t	-0,614	-2,137	-2,319	-1,918	-2,514	0,700
	p	0,540	0,032*	0,017*	0,057	0,013*	0,485
<b>GOLD evresi</b>							
I. Evre	29	4,56 (4,73)	49,78 (23,97)	24,52 (6,91)	20,65 (3,24)	18,87 (6,70)	20,54 (5,31)
II. Evre	108	5,21 (5,09)	42,23 (22,16)	24,82 (8,45)	22,19 (9,14)	20,26 (7,22)	19,42 (8,67)
III. Evre	47	4,28 (4,52)	38,55 (21,64)	26,33 (8,99)	26,52 (6,05)	22,42 (7,10)	20,77 (6,23)
IV. Evre	11	6,34 (5,17)	34,26 (19,52)	25,70 (8,54)	25,87 (7,91)	21,54 (7,75)	19,27 (5,31)
Test	KW	6,425	7,142	4,073	6,524	2,828	1,072
	p	0,027*	0,011*	0,107	0,020*	0,246	0,483
<b>Oksijen tedavisi kullanma durumu</b>							
Hiç	13	4,76 (4,93)	34,78 (14,97)	25,92 (7,97)	19,30 (2,98)	18,30 (5,70)	20,61 (5,31)
Ara sıra	80	5,38 (5,29)	42,26 (21,77)	26,52 (9,05)	21,49 (2,74)	21,27 (6,72)	19,72 (5,17)
Sürekli	102	4,96 (4,80)	36,55 (22,64)	25,33 (9,29)	26,52 (9,05)	22,56 (7,10)	20,59 (6,39)
Test	F	0,196	1,399	0,383	5,021	1,088	0,526
	p	0,822	0,249	0,682	0,007*	0,339	0,592
<b>Sigara içme durumu</b>							
Hiç içmedim	67	4,82 (4,06)	44,75 (19,97)	24,12 (6,99)	22,43 (2,15)	19,26 (5,74)	21,91 (6,11)
İçiyorum	40	5,46 (5,74)	41,86 (20,15)	27,42 (8,92)	21,10 (3,04)	21,64 (6,52)	19,42 (5,63)
Bıraktım	88	4,16 (4,22)	41,15 (21,44)	25,42 (9,34)	24,32 (8,85)	23,55 (7,57)	20,83 (7,54)
Test	F	0,435	0,142	2,073	1,238	2,042	1,112
	p	0,764	0,849	0,097	0,386	0,103	0,352
<b>Ek fiziksel hastalık olma durumu</b>							
Evet	150	5,22 (4,85)	40,23 (22,27)	27,44 (9,30)	21,62 (2,96)	21,52 (6,93)	20,27 (6,04)
Hayır	45	4,77 (5,49)	17,75 (10,66)	25,24 (8,27)	19,88 (2,77)	21,33 (6,69)	20,13 (5,17)
Test	t	0,527	1,208	1,165	2,542	0,696	0,141
	p	0,599	0,229	0,246	0,012*	0,487	0,888
<b>Sabah kendisini nasıl hissettiği durumu</b>							
Yorgun	149	7,46 (5,77)	31,50 (16,50)	26,16 (8,90)	20,86 (2,83)	20,93 (6,87)	19,98 (5,74)
Dinlenmiş	46	4,26 (4,17)	64,47 (17,32)	24,89 (9,68)	21,08 (3,36)	19,98 (5,74)	21,06 (6,15)
Test	t	-3,406	-11,894	0,828	-0,442	0,823	-1,095
	p	0,001**	0,000**	0,409	0,659	0,411	0,275

\*p<0,05, \*\*p<0,001

EUÖ: Epworth uyukluluk ölçeği, RCUÖ: Richard-Campbell uyku ölçeği, SÖÖTÖ: Sürekli öfke ve öfke ifade tarzı ölçeği, Ort: Ortalama, SS: Standart sapma, t: Bağımsız t-testi, KW: Kruskal-Wallis testi, Post-hoc: Kruskal-Wallis One-Way ANOVA, F: ANOVA

karşısındaki bireye ifade edebilmesidir.<sup>34</sup> Bu çalışmaya katılan KOAH tanılı bireylerin öfkelerini daha çok içe yönettikleri bulunduğundan, uygun ifade edilmeyen öfkenin ilerleyen zamanda ruhsal sorunlara yol açabileceği söylenebilir. Ayrıca tedavi ekibi ve hasta arasındaki oluşan güvenin, iletişimin ve tedavi sürecinin, bireyin öfke ifade şekline etkilenebileceği<sup>14</sup> düşünülürse KOAH tanılı bireylerin tedavi ve bakım sürecine baş etme yöntemleri, duyguları ifade etme gibi eğitimler eklenebilir ve bireylerin uygun şekilde öfkelerini ifade etmeleri sağlanabilir. Öfke ve öfke ifadesi beklentiler, çevre, kültürel özellikler ve öğrenilmiş davranışlar, cinsiyet, yaş, kişilik özellikleri gibi değişkenlerden etkilenmektedir.<sup>35</sup> Bu çalışmada yaş arttıkça içe yönelik öfke düzeyinin azaldığı saptanmıştır. Yaş dönemlerine göre öfke ifade şekilleri farklılık göstermektedir. Çocukluk döneminde daha çok dışa yönelik öfke belirtilirken, yaş ilerledikçe bireyin geliştiği ve daha uygun öfkeyi ifade etme yöntemlerini kullandığı görülmektedir.<sup>36</sup> Çalışmalarda yaşlı bireylerin, ergen ve yetişkinlere göre daha düşük öfke düzeyine sahip oldukları ve öfke kontrolünde daha başarılı oldukları bildirilmektedir.<sup>37,38</sup> Bu çalışmada da literatür doğrultusunda veri elde edilmiştir. Ayrıca cinsiyet ile öfke duygusu ve ifade ediliş biçimi arasında da değişiklikler olduğu belirtilmektedir.<sup>35</sup> Erkeklerin kadınlara göre öfkelerini daha doğrudan ifade edebildikleri belirtilmektedir. Kadının, toplumdaki cinsiyet rolünün baskısı ile öfke duygusunu ifade etmesinin hoş karşılanmaması ve kabul edilmemesi gerçeğinden kaynaklandığı bildirilmektedir.<sup>35</sup> Bu çalışmada da toplumun getirdiği cinsiyet rolünün baskısından kaynaklı kadınların öfke düzeylerinin ve dışa yönelik öfkelerinin erkeklere göre daha düşük seviyede bulunmasında etkili olabilir. Bu çalışmada GOLD III-IV evrelerinde olan bireylerin, sürekli oksijen tedavisi alanların ve ek fiziksel hastalığı olanların içe yönelik öfke düzeylerinin daha yüksek olduğu bulundu. Öfkenin ifade biçiminin bireyin yaşadığı engellenmenin kaynağına göre değiştiği vurgulanmaktadır. Çevreden kaynaklı bir engellenme söz konusu ise öfkenin hedefi çevresel faktörler; bireyden kaynaklı bir engellenme ise öfkenin hedefi bireyin kendisi olmaktadır.<sup>34</sup> Bu doğrultuda bireyin hastalığından kaynaklı bir engellenmesi olduğu görülmekte ve öfkeyi de kendisine yönelttiği görülmektedir. Birey hastalığın şiddetinin, sürekli oksijen tedavisine bağlı olmanın veya ek hastalığının olmasının sorumlusu olarak kendisini görüyor ve buna bağlı olarak kendisine öfkesi yüksek olabilir. Bunun sonucunda bu bireyler depresyon ve hatta intihar gibi istenmeyen durumları yaşayabilirler. Bu nedenle hastalık şiddeti yüksek bireylerin ruhsal sorunlar açısından dikkat edilmesi ve ruh sağlığı profesyonelleri tarafından düzenli takip ve tedavi edilmesi gerektiği anlaşılmaktadır. KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kalitelerinin stres, anksiyete, depresyon gibi ruhsal sorunlar ile ilişki olduğu bildirilmektedir.<sup>11-13</sup> Hastalık sürecinde yaşanan uyku sorunun bireylerin öfke düzeylerine de etkisi olabileceği düşünülmüştür. Ancak bu çalışmada KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasında anlamlı bir ilişki olmadığı saptanmıştır. Bu konuda literatürde yapılmış sadece bir çalışmaya rastlanmıştır ve obstrüktif uyku apne sendromu ile takip edilen bireylerin uykusuzluk düzeyleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasında pozitif yönlü ilişki olduğu belirlenmiştir.<sup>16</sup> Bu konuda daha fazla çalışma yapılmasına ihtiyaç olduğu

anlaşılmaktadır. KOAH tanılı bireylerin ruhsal sorunlar açısından riskli grupta yer aldığı unutulmamalı ve multidisipliner yaklaşım ile erken dönemde ruh sağlığı hizmetlerinden yararlanmaları sağlanmalıdır.

## Sonuç

Bu çalışmada; KOAH tanılı bireylerin gündüz uykuluk düzeylerinin düşük, uyku kalitelerinin kötü, öfke düzeylerinin orta seviyede olduğu ve daha çok öfkelerini içe yönettikleri bulundu. KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ile öfke düzeyleri arasında anlamlı bir ilişki olmadığı saptandı. Hastalık şiddetinin ve atak sayısının artması, uyku kalitesini düşürdüğü; içe yönelik öfke düzeyini artırdığı belirlendi.

Bu sonuçlara göre KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku sorunlarını sıklıkla yaşadığı ve bunun tedavi ve bakım sürecinde esas olarak değerlendirilmesi gereken bir konu olduğu anlaşılmaktadır. Tedavi ve bakım sürecinde KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kalitelerini ve öfke düzeylerini olumsuz yönde etkileyen faktörler göz önünde bulundurulmalıdır. Uyku kalitesini artıracak hemşirelik girişimlerinin çok önemli olduğu ve bunun bireylerin fiziksel ve ruhsal sağlıklarına da olumlu yönde yansıtacağı söylenebilir. KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku bozukluğu ve ruhsal sorunlar açısından multidisipliner bir yaklaşımla ruh sağlığı profesyonelleri ile birlikte takip edilmeleri gerektiği önerilebilir. Öfke kontrolünde zorlanan ve psikiyatrik yardım arayışı içinde olan bireylerin danışmanlık için psikiyatri hizmetlerine yönlendirilerek bu bireylere öfke ve kontrolü ile ilgili eğitimlerin yapılması önerilebilir. Özellikle kronik hastalığı olan bireylerin ruhsal sorunlar oluşmadan, erken dönemde psikiyatri hizmetlerinden yararlanması gerektiği vurgulanabilir. KOAH tanılı bireylerin uyku kaliteleri ve öfke düzeylerini değerlendiren başka çalışmaların yapılması da önerilebilir.

## Etik

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**Hasta Onayı:** Katılımcılar araştırma hakkında bilgilendirilerek, sözlü ve yazılı onamları alındı.

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# The Effect of Progressive Muscle Relaxation Exercises on Sleep Quality in Patients Receiving Hemodialysis Treatment: A Randomized Controlled Study

## Hemodiyaliz Tedavisi Alan Hastalarda Progresif Kas Gevşeme Egzersizlerinin Uyku Kalitesi Üzerine Etkisi: Randomize Kontrollü Çalışma

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### Abstract

**Objective:** This study evaluated the effect of progressive muscle relaxation exercises (PMRE) applied to patients undergoing hemodialysis (HD) treatment due to chronic kidney disease on sleep quality.

**Materials and Methods:** The research was conducted between March 1 and September 30, 2022, with 76 participants in a private dialysis center in Konya Province, Turkey. Using a randomized controlled research design, we divided the participants into 38 experimental and 38 control groups. We collected data using the "personal information form" and the "Pittsburgh sleep quality index (PSQI)". IBM SPSS 26 software performed the statistical analysis of the obtained data. When the parametric test assumptions were met, the "Student's t-test" was used to evaluate differences between the two independent groups; otherwise, the "Mann-Whitney U test" was employed. The relationship between categorical variables was assessed using Fisher's exact test and chi-square tests.

**Results:** In the intervention group undergoing PMRE, it was determined that the PSQI total sleep score and its subdimensions, including subjective sleep quality, sleep latency, sleep duration, sleep efficiency, sleep disturbances, and daytime dysfunction (except for the sleep medication use subdimension), had a significantly positive effect compared to the control group at the eighth week ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** In line with these findings, it has been determined that PMRE improve sleep quality in patients undergoing HD treatment. It is recommended that HD patients be educated about PMRE and that the exercises be taught.

**Keywords:** Hemodialysis, sleep quality, progressive muscle relaxation exercise

### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışma kronik böbrek hastalığı nedeniyle hemodiyaliz tedavisi alan hastalara uygulanan progresif kas gevşeme egzersizlerinin (PKGE) uyku kalitesi üzerine etkisini değerlendirmek amacıyla yapıldı.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Araştırma 01 Mart-30 Eylül 2022 tarihleri arasında Konya ilinde özel bir diyaliz merkezinde hemodiyaliz tedavisi alan hastalar ile randomize kontrollü araştırma şeklinde 38 deney, 38 kontrol grubu olmak üzere toplam 76 hasta ile tamamlandı. Veriler "kişisel bilgi formu" ve "Pittsburgh uyku kalitesi indeksi (PUKİ)" ile toplandı. Elde edilen verilerin istatistiksel analizi IBM SPSS 26 programında, iki bağımsız grup arasındaki farklılıkların değerlendirilmesinde, parametrik test ön şartlarını sağladığı durumda "Student's t-test"; sağlanamadığında ise "Mann Whitney-U testi" kullanıldı. Kategorik değişkenler arasındaki ilişkiye Fisher's exact testi ve ki-kare testleri kullanılarak yapıldı.

**Bulgular:** PKGE yapılan deney grubunda PUKİ toplam uyku puanı ve PUKİ öznel uyku kalitesi, uyku latansı, uyku süresi, uyku etkinliği, uyku bozukluğu, gündüz işlev bozukluğu alt boyutlarının puanının (uyku ilacı kullanımı alt boyutu hariç) kontrol grubuna göre sekizinci haftada olumlu yönde etkili olduğu belirlendi ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Sonuç:** Bu sonuçlar doğrultusunda hemodiyaliz tedavisi alan hastalarda PKGE'nin uyku kalitesini artırdığı saptanmış olup PKGE hakkında hemodiyaliz tedavisi alan hastalara eğitim verilerek egzersizlerin öğretilmesi önerilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Hemodiyaliz, uyku kalitesi, progresif kas gevşeme egzersizi

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**Clinical Trial Registration:** The Clinical Trials protocol of this study was registered (NCT05604833).

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## Introduction

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a severe health condition that adversely affects individuals' physical, social, and psychological well-being, reducing their overall quality of life. Renal replacement therapy (RRT) becomes necessary when diet and medication fail to manage CKD. RRT includes hemodialysis (HD), peritoneal dialysis, and renal transplantation.<sup>1,2</sup> In patients undergoing HD, side effects such as fatigue, muscle cramps, insomnia, and restless legs syndrome can be seen due to the HD process, which can negatively affect the patient's quality of life.<sup>3,4</sup>

Patients undergoing HD may experience sleep problems that could negatively impact their sleep quality, including issues with falling or waking up from sleep, frequent nighttime awakenings, restless wakefulness, daytime sleepiness, and impaired daytime functioning. Studies have indicated that sleep problems are observed in 40-83% of patients in HD treatment. Studies have shown that the sleep quality of patients with HD is poor, which negatively affects their quality of life.<sup>3-9</sup> Non-pharmacological practices such as cognitive therapy, sleep hygiene, music therapy, and relaxation exercises can reduce insomnia and improve sleep quality.<sup>10,11</sup>

Relaxation exercises include techniques like deep breathing exercises, meditation, reflexology, and progressive muscle relaxation exercises (PMRE). PMRE is a type of relaxation exercise involving individual contraction and muscle group relaxation from the face to the feet.<sup>12-14</sup> PMRE is easily learned, has no adverse effects, and can be practiced anywhere. However, limited studies have been found in the literature showing the benefits of relaxation exercises for improving sleep quality in HD patients.<sup>15-18</sup> This research aimed to assess the impact of PMRE on sleep quality in patients receiving HD treatment.

## Materials and Methods

This study was conducted as a randomized controlled trial (Figure 1). The study took place at a private dialysis center in Konya between March 1 and September 30, 2022.

### Study Participant

During the study period, a total of 218 patients received HD at a private dialysis center. The study's sample size was calculated with  $\alpha = 0.05$ , 90% power, and 0.746 effect size based on the results of a similar study. It used G\*Power 3.1 software. As a result of the analysis, a total of 64 patients, 32 of whom were experimental and 32 were control, formed the sample for this study.<sup>16</sup> We included 80 samples, with 40 patients in the intervention group and 40 in the control group, to account for potential losses during the study. Throughout the study, we excluded a total of four patients: two from the intervention group (one patient left the dialysis center, another couldn't allocate time for the study), and two from the control group (both patients stated they couldn't allocate time for the study). We completed the study with 76 patients, 38 in the intervention group and 38 in the control group.

**Inclusion for the study:** Patients aged eighteen years or older, with a Pittsburgh sleep quality index (PSQI) global sleep score

of  $\geq 5$  points, who had undergone HD for at least three months, who had a mobile phone suitable for downloading PMRE video, and who volunteered to participate in the study were included in the study.

**Exclusion criteria for the study:** We identified exclusion criteria as hearing impairment, physical barriers to performing relaxation exercises, psychiatric disorders like depression and schizophrenia, and participation in relaxation exercises like yoga, breathing exercises, and meditation for the previous six months.

**Randomization and blinding:** A computer-based program (www.random.org) randomly and equally assigned patients meeting the inclusion criteria to both groups. An independent statistician assigned participants to the experimental and control groups to ensure privacy and prevent bias. We carried out this process using a blind technique, which included random assignment and concealed randomization to control selection bias. Due to the intervention, blinding the researcher was impossible. The researcher coded the data as "A" and "B" before transferring them to the computer.

Additionally, an independent statistical expert analyzed the coded data to prevent bias in data analysis. We allocated the participants to groups based on this list after obtaining their consent and completing the pre-tests. The study's nature precluded the application of blinding to the participants. To remove any potential prejudice, a neutral researcher who had no prior knowledge of the trained groups collected and recorded the information for the study. Additionally, an independent statistician, unaware of the assigned groups, conducted the statistical analysis of the data. This approach ensured the prevention of bias during the data analysis phase.

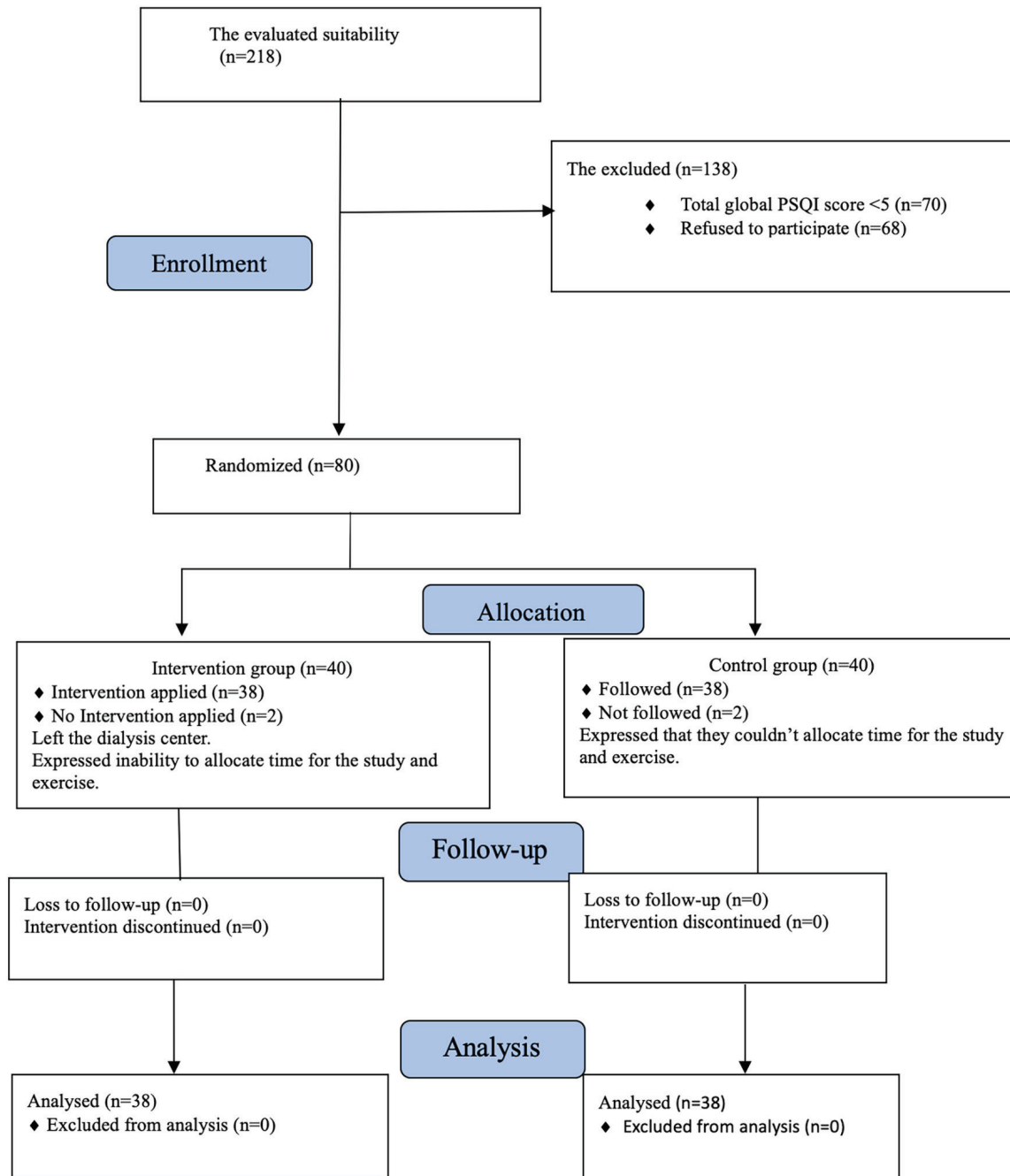
### Data Collection Tools

**Personal information form:** The form included 12 questions that assessed participants' age, gender, education, marital status, occupation, and information about their HD treatment.<sup>17-19</sup>

**PSQI:** In the last month, Buysse et al.<sup>20</sup> developed the PSQI to provide information about sleep quality, as well as the type and severity of sleep disorders. The Turkish validity and reliability of the scale were made by Agargun et al.<sup>21</sup> The PSQI consists of seven components and 19 questions that assess overall sleep quality, subjective sleep quality, sleep duration, sleep latency, habitual sleep efficiency, sleep disturbances, sleep medication use, and daytime dysfunction. Based on symptom frequency, a scale of 0 to 3 scores each subdimension's response. Scoring is as follows: 0 for "not during the past month", 1 for "less than once a week", 2 for "once or twice a week", and 3 for "three or more times a week". The global sleep score ranges from 0 to 21, with higher values indicating poorer sleep quality and higher levels of sleep disorders. A PSQI global sleep score of  $\geq 5$  points indicates poor sleep quality.<sup>20,21</sup> In this study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient calculated for the seven components of the PSQI scale was found to be 0.73.

### Patient Inclusion and Assignment to the Study

Before their dialysis sessions, the HD center conducted individual interviews with HD patients in a private room. We verbally



**Figure 1.** Consort flow diagram

PSQI: Pittsburgh sleep quality index

informed the patients about the study and invited them to participate. Those agreeing to participate had their eligibility assessed based on the inclusion criteria. We obtained written consent from eligible participants. Before allocating to groups, the researcher completed the “personal information form” and PSQI as pre-tests. The randomization process involved opening sealed envelopes and assigning patients to either the experimental or control groups.

#### Implementation of the Intervention Group

In a separate room within the HD unit, patients assigned to the intervention group received information about PMRE. The Turkish Psychologists Association granted permission to upload the exercise video to the patient’s phone. We then provided the patient with headphones, enabling them to perform the exercise while listening to the video. We monitored the patient’s correct execution of the exercise throughout this process. We



instructed the patient to perform the exercise twice daily for 8 weeks, once during the day and once before bed. We sent a daily reminder message to ensure regular exercise. We asked them to record their home workouts in the daily exercise form. We evaluated sleep quality using PSQI during the fourth and eighth weeks.

### Control Group

Patients in the control group received only routine care, without any interventions. We evaluated sleep quality with PSQI in the fourth and eighth weeks. We offered the control group the option to learn PMRE at the end of the eighth week. Of these, we taught PMRE to 25 patients who expressed interest.

### PMRE

PMRE is a cognitive-behavioral technique developed by Jacobson in the 1920s. It involves voluntary contraction and subsequent relaxation of muscles, aiming to induce sensations of relaxation, comfort, and rest.<sup>12,13</sup> Regular relaxation exercises activate the parasympathetic nervous system, promoting relaxation.<sup>11</sup> Various muscle groups, including hands, arms, neck, shoulders, face, chest, hips, thighs, feet, and fingers, tense and then relax during PMRE (Figure 2). The exercise is typically conducted in a calm environment while listening to audio recordings lasting around 30 minutes.<sup>22,23</sup>

### Statistical Analysis

We analyzed the collected data using the IBM SPSS Statistics Standard Concurrent User V 26 software package (IBM Corp., Armonk, New York, USA). We assessed the normal data distribution for numerical variables using the Shapiro-Wilk normality test. We evaluated the homogeneity of variances using the Levene test. When examining differences between two independent groups, the parametric “Student’s t-test” was employed if the prerequisites were met; otherwise, the “Mann Whitney-U test” was utilized. We assessed the relationships between categorical variables using the Fisher’s exact and chi-square tests. The Mauchly test verified the assumption of sphericity for repeated measures analyses. We selected the appropriate test (Huynh-Feldt or Greenhouse-Geisser) depending on whether the epsilon value was greater than 0.75 or not. Repeated measures (clinical parameters) and an overall assessment between patient groups were conducted using a mixed-design analysis of variance and the Bonferroni-Dunn post-hoc test for multiple comparisons. We also performed within-timepoint comparisons using the Bonferroni-Dunn test. Initial values exhibited a statistically significant difference between the two groups.

Consequently, we conducted a mixed-design ANCOVA, considering the initial values as covariates, and carried out within-group and between-group multiple comparisons using the Bonferroni-Dunn test. A significance level of  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

### Ethical Consideration

To conduct the research, ethical approval was obtained from the KTO Karatay University Faculty of Medicine, Pharmaceutical and Non-Medical Device Research Ethics Committee under the

decision number 2022/006 (date: 14.01.2022), and permission was obtained from the institution where the research would be conducted. Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, and written consent was obtained from the participants. The Clinical Trials protocol of this study was registered (NCT05604833).

## Results

This study was completed with 76 patients (intervention group; 38, control group; 38). The demographic characteristics of the patients in the study groups (Table 1) and their disease and HD treatment processes (Table 2) were statistically similar ( $p > 0.05$ ). Table 3 shows the comparison of PSQI global sleep scores and PSQI subscale mean scores between the experimental and control groups.

### PSQI Global Sleep

There was no difference in PSQI global sleep scores between the two groups before the intervention ( $p > 0.05$ ). It was determined that the mean PSQI global sleep scores measured in the fourth and eighth weeks were significantly lower in the intervention group than in the control group ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 3).

### PSQI Subjective Sleep Quality Subscale

Before the intervention, measurements taken in both groups showed no difference in the average PSQI subjective sleep quality subscale scores. However, it was determined that in the intervention group, the average scores of the PSQI subjective sleep quality subscale in the fourth and eighth weeks were significantly lower compared to the control group’s scores in the fourth and eighth weeks ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 3).

### PSQI Sleep Latency Subscale

There was no significant difference in the mean scores of the PSQI sleep latency subscale between the groups in the measurements performed before the intervention and in the fourth week. However, the mean sleep latency scores in the eighth week were significantly lower in the intervention group than in the control group (Table 3).

### PSQI Sleep Duration Subscale

In the eighth week of the study, the average score of the “sleep duration” subscale in the intervention group was significantly lower compared to the average score in the eighth week of the control group ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 3).

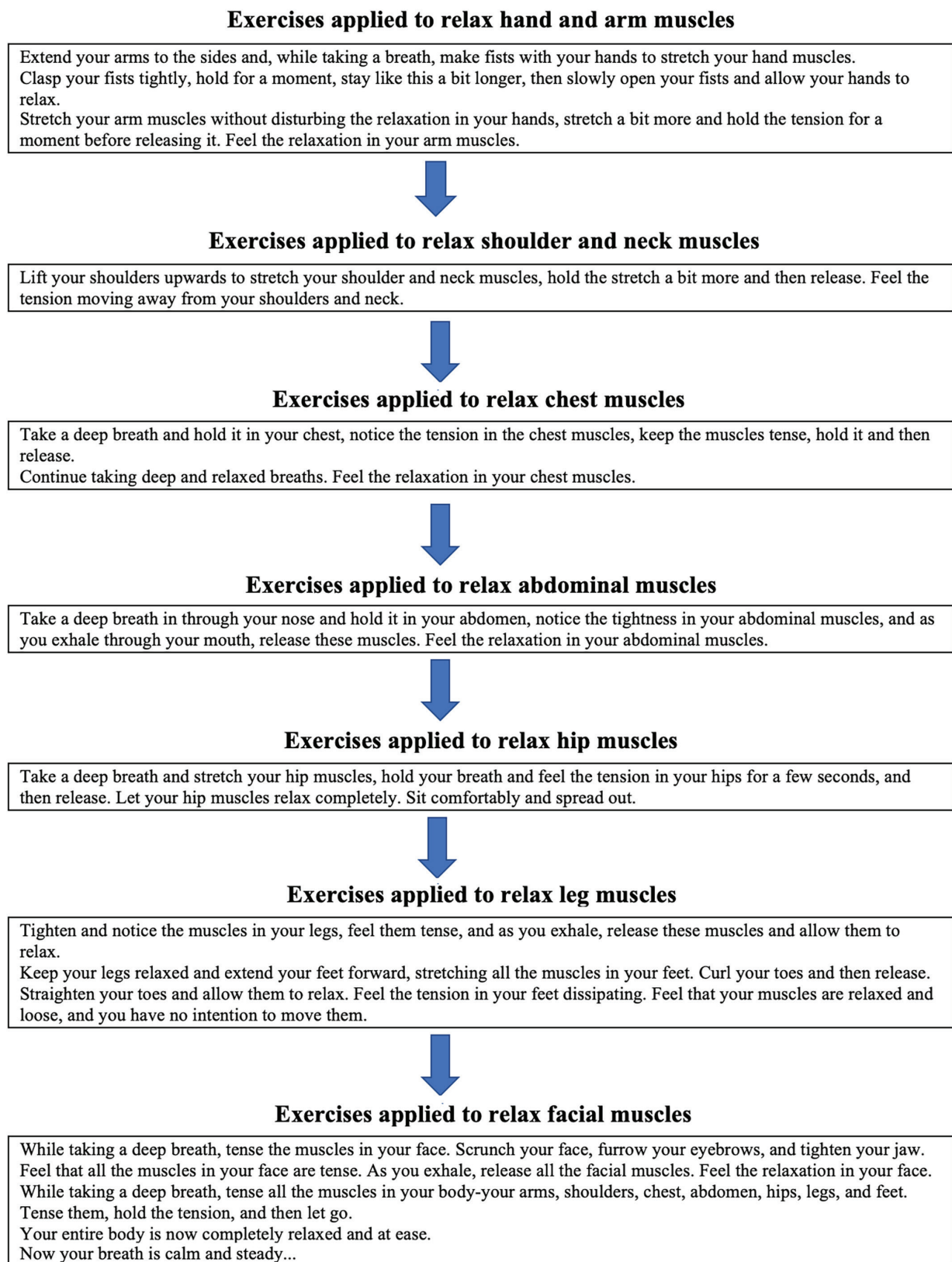
### PSQI Habitual Sleep Efficiency Subscale

While there was no significant difference in the pre-intervention and fourth-week measurements between the study groups, the average score of the “habitual sleep efficiency” subscale in the intervention group was found to be significantly lower than that of the control group in the eighth week ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 3).

### PSQI Sleep Disturbance Subscale

While there was no significant difference in the pre-intervention measurements between the study groups, the average scores of the “sleep disturbance” subscale in the intervention group during the fourth and eighth weeks were found to be





**Figure 2.** PMRE stages  
PMRE: Progressive muscle relaxation exercises

**Table 1. Comparison of participants' demographic characteristics according to study groups**

	Group		Test statistics	
	Experiment n=38	Control n=38	Test value	p
Age, (year)				
Mean ± SD	54.71±12.11	58.82±9.31	-1.804*	0.071
M (min-max)	53.5 (35-86)	58 (37-78)		
Gender, n (%)				
Woman	21 (55.3)	20 (52.6)	0.053†	0.818
Male	17 (44.7)	18 (47.4)		
Marital status, n (%)				
Married	32 (84.2)	34 (89.5)	0.461†	0.497
Single	6 (15.8)	4 (10.5)		
Education status, n (%)				
Literate	0 (0)	4 (10.5)	6.640†	0.084
Primary school	28 (73.6)	30 (78.9)		
High school	5 (13.2)	2 (5.3)		
College	5 (13.2)	2 (5.3)		
Working status, n (%)				
Working	4 (10.5)	1 (2.6)	1.927†	0.165
Not working	34 (89.5)	37 (97.4)		
Occupation status, n (%)				
Housewife	18 (47.4)	20 (52.6)	1.848†	0.384
Retired	13 (34.2)	15 (39.5)		
Other (6 self-employed, 1 civil servant)	7 (18.4)	3 (7.9)		

†: Chi-square test ( $\chi^2$ ), ‡: Mann-Whitney U test (z)

SD: Standard deviation, M: Median, min-max: Minimum-maximum

†: Chi-square test ( $\chi^2$ ), ‡: Mann-Whitney U test (z)

SD: Standard deviation, M: Median, min-max: Minimum-maximum

significantly lower than those of the control group during the corresponding weeks ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 3).

#### PSQI Daytime Dysfunction Subscale

In the eighth-week measurement of the intervention group, the average score of the "daytime dysfunction" subscale was found to be significantly lower than that of the control group in the eighth week ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 3).

#### PSQI Sleep Medication Use Subscale

There was no statistically significant difference in PSQI sleep medication use subscale scores between the experimental and control groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). In the within-group comparison, it was observed that the intervention group's PSQI sleep medication use score in the fourth and eighth weeks was significantly lower than before the intervention ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 3).

### Discussion

This study provides evidence that PMRE positively impacts sleep quality in patients undergoing HD during the fourth and eighth weeks.

**Table 2. Comparison of participants' disease characteristics according to study groups**

	Group		Test statistics	
	Experiment n=38	Control n=38	Test value	p
Chronic disease, n (%)				
Yes	26 (68.4)	29 (76.3)	0.592 <sup>†</sup>	0.442
No	12 (31.6)	9 (23.7)		
Hemodialysis time, n (%)				
3 months-1 year	7 (18.4)	5 (13.2)	2.273 <sup>†</sup>	0.518
1-5 years	12 (31.6)	18 (47.3)		
5-10 years	11 (28.9)	10 (26.3)		
10 years and above	8 (21.1)	5 (13.2)		
Number of hemodialysis per week, n (%)				
2 times a week	1 (2.6)	2 (5.3)	0.347 <sup>†</sup>	0.556
3 times a week	37 (97.4)	36 (94.7)		
†: Chi-square test (χ <sup>2</sup> ) SD: Standard deviation				

†: Chi-square test ( $\chi^2$ )

SD: Standard deviation

According to the PSQI scale, a global sleep score of 5 or above indicates that sleep quality is negatively affected in at least two areas. As the score increases, the negative impact on sleep quality becomes more pronounced. However, in this study, the intervention group's PSQI global sleep score fell below 5 during the eighth week. Similarly, in a study by Saeedi et al.<sup>15</sup>, the PSQI global sleep score decreased, but the indicator of poor sleep quality, represented by a score above 5, remained. Yang et al.<sup>11</sup> conducted a meta-analysis on the effects of PMRE on HD patients, noting an improvement in sleep quality among patients who engaged in PMRE. Similarly, Akgül and Kelleci's<sup>18</sup> study, in which they administered PMRE daily for eight weeks, revealed an improvement in sleep quality by the eighth week. However, the PSQI global sleep score had decreased compared to the baseline; it remained above the threshold associated with poor sleep quality.<sup>18</sup> It has been determined that PMRE also improves sleep quality in coronavirus disease-2019 patients.<sup>24,25</sup> Researchers have also found that PMRE enhances sleep quality in burn patients<sup>26</sup>, lung resection patients<sup>27</sup>, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients.<sup>28</sup> Amini et al.<sup>17</sup> study, involving nightly PMRE sessions for eight weeks, demonstrated that the global sleep score fell below 5 (indicative of poor sleep quality).

In contrast, in a study by Rambod et al.<sup>16</sup>, HD patients in the intervention group practiced the Benson relaxation technique twice a day for 20 minutes each over eight weeks, and the Benson relaxation exercises positively impacted sleep quality. However, Rambod et al.<sup>16</sup> determined that the global sleep score remained above 5 points. Based on the findings of previous studies and this research, we observed that PMRE started to improve global sleep quality from the fourth week, and by the eighth week, the improvement was more pronounced, surpassing the threshold of 5 points in the PSQI global sleep score. This outcome suggests that increasing the duration

**Table 3. Comparison of PSQI and subscale mean scores between experimental and control groups**

		Pre-enterprise	Fourth week	Eighth week	Test statistics
PSQI global total score	Experiment	9.67±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	7.53±0.23 <sup>b</sup>	3.40±0.34 <sup>d</sup>	<b>F=194.440 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.844</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=385.419 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.841$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=24.179 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.249$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=195.466 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.728$
	Control	9.67±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	10.08±0.23 <sup>a</sup>	11.04±0.34 <sup>b</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=0.001 p=0.999 $\eta^2=0.001$	F=57.532 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.441$	F=240.789 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.767$	
Subjective sleep quality	Experiment	1.66±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.30±0.10 <sup>b</sup>	0.45±0.10 <sup>c</sup>	<b>F=82.535 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.696</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=225.321 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.755$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=10.200 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.123$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=59.131 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.448$
	Control	1.66±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.72±0.10 <sup>ab</sup>	1.89±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=0.001 p=0.999 $\eta^2=0.001$	F=9.219 p=0.003 $\eta^2=0.112$	F=99.542 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.577$	
Sleep latency	Experiment	2.29±0.73 <sup>a</sup>	2.03±0.75 <sup>b</sup>	1.26±0.60 <sup>c</sup>	<b>F=41.572 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.532</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=6.470 p=0.013 $\eta^2=0.080$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=14.804 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.167$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=43.759 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.372$
	Control	2.05±0.77 <sup>a</sup>	2.26±0.76 <sup>b</sup>	2.37±0.75	
	Test statistics	F=1.891 p=0.173 $\eta^2=0.025$	F=1.863 p=0.176 $\eta^2=0.025$	F=50.206 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.404$	
Sleep duration	Experiment	1.95±0.98 <sup>a</sup>	1.53±0.83 <sup>b</sup>	0.87±0.58 <sup>c</sup>	<b>F=39.753 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.521</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=1.447 p=0.233 $\eta^2=0.019$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=15.278 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.171$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=42.409 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.364$
	Control	1.55±0.92 <sup>a</sup>	1.61±0.89 <sup>a</sup>	1.82±0.83 <sup>a</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=3.256 p=0.075 $\eta^2=0.042$	F=0.161 p=0.690 $\eta^2=0.002$	F=33.162 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.309$	
Usual sleep efficiency	Experiment	1.42±1.08 <sup>a</sup>	1.03±1.08 <sup>b</sup>	0.24±0.54 <sup>c</sup>	<b>F=32.236 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.469</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=3.385 p=0.070 $\eta^2=0.044$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=10.994 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.129$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=38.873 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.344$
	Control	1.16±1.10 <sup>a</sup>	1.16±1.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.50±1.08 <sup>a</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=1.103 p=0.297 $\eta^2=0.015$	F=0.304 p=0.583 $\eta^2=0.004$	F=41.262 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.358$	
Sleep disturbance	Experiment	1.43±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.15±0.07 <sup>b</sup>	0.83±0.09 <sup>c</sup>	<b>F=23.325 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.393</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=121.237 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.624$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=33.980 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.318$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=15.617 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.176$
	Control	1.43±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.38±0.07 <sup>ab</sup>	1.49±0.09 <sup>a</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=0.001 p=0.999 $\eta^2=0.001$	F=5.052 p=0.028 $\eta^2=0.065$	F=25.978 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.262$	
Daytime dysfunction	Experiment	1.21±0.96 <sup>a</sup>	0.97±0.79 <sup>ab</sup>	0.24±0.49 <sup>b</sup>	<b>F= 28.194 p&lt;0.001 <math>\eta^2=0.436</math>;</b> <b>Group effect:</b> F=13.248 p=0.001 $\eta^2=0.152$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=6.426 p=0.002 $\eta^2=0.080$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=29.270 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.283$
	Control	1.08±0.71 <sup>ab</sup>	1.29±0.61 <sup>ab</sup>	1.47±0.73 <sup>a</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=0.459 p=0.500 $\eta^2=0.006$	F=3.811 p=0.055 $\eta^2=0.049$	F=75.890 p<0.001 $\eta^2=0.506$	
Sleep medication usage	Experiment	0.39±0.92 <sup>a</sup>	0.16±0.49 <sup>b</sup>	0.03±0.16 <sup>c</sup>	F=6.862 p=0.002 $\eta^2=0.158$ ; <b>Group effect:</b> F=0.750 p=0.389 $\eta^2=0.010$ ; <b>Time effect:</b> F=5.024 p=0.008 $\eta^2=0.064$ ; <b>Group x time interaction:</b> F=6.816 p=0.001 $\eta^2=0.084$
	Control	0.08±0.49 <sup>abc</sup>	0.11±0.51 <sup>abc</sup>	0.11±0.51 <sup>abc</sup>	
	Test statistics	F=3.519 p=0.065 $\eta^2=0.045$	F=0.209 p=0.649 $\eta^2=0.003$	F=0.830 p=0.365 $\eta^2=0.011$	
a>b>c>d: Different letter on the same line or letter combinations indicate a statistically significant difference p<0.05, PSQI: Pittsburgh sleep quality index					

and frequency of PMRE sessions might be more effective in enhancing sleep quality. Therefore, we recommend comparing PMRE interventions with varying durations and frequencies. This study determined that the PSQI subjective sleep quality scores of the intervention group significantly decreased in the fourth and eighth weeks compared to the control group. The findings of Sayed and Younis's<sup>14</sup> study, which applied relaxation

techniques once a day for thirty days, align with this result. A study by Amini et al.<sup>17</sup> demonstrated that PMRE administered once a day for sixty days improved sleep quality on the 60<sup>th</sup> day for HD patients compared to aerobic exercises and the control group. In contrast to the prior studies involving PMRE interventions administered once a day for thirty days<sup>14</sup> and sixty days<sup>17</sup>, this current research implemented PMRE twice a

day, leading to a more pronounced reduction in sleep scores between the fourth and eighth weeks. Based on the study's outcomes, it is believed that exercises performed twice daily and for an extended period could yield more effective results. Sleep latency is a sub-dimension of PSQI that indicates the time it takes for patients to fall asleep. It is negatively affected in patients who experience difficulty falling asleep.<sup>20</sup> In a study by Sayed and Younis<sup>14</sup>, sleep latency decreased from 1.70 to 0.95. In contrast, in a study by Demiralp et al.<sup>29</sup> on patients who underwent breast cancer chemotherapy and received PMRE eight times during four chemotherapy cycles, PMRE reduced sleep latency from 1.21 to 1.07. The results of this study are consistent with the findings of other studies, indicating the effectiveness of PMRE on sleep latency; considering that the shorter the time to fall asleep, the better the sleep quality, it is believed that performing PMRE before falling asleep could be beneficial.

Sleep duration is defined as the amount of time patients spend asleep. In HD patients, factors such as uremia-related itching, restless leg syndrome-associated night awakenings, fatigue, cramps, and emotional problems can lead to a decrease in sleep duration and disrupted sleep quality. Sayed and Younis<sup>14</sup> conducted a PMRE intervention once daily for 30 days in HD patients and compared pre- and post-relaxation measurements, finding a significant decrease in sleep duration. They reported a decrease from 2.22 to 1.96 in sleep duration scores before and after relaxation, respectively, indicating a significant improvement. This study exhibits similarities to existing literature, suggesting that longer daily exercise sessions may lead to more effective outcomes.

Unusual sleep efficiency is an indicator that patients are not sleeping enough. Similar to this study's findings, Sayed and Younis<sup>14</sup> compared pre- and post-relaxation sleep levels in HD patients who received PMRE once daily for 30 days and found a significant decrease in sleep duration. The results of these studies are consistent with the literature.

Sleep disturbance is defined as a decrease in mental activity, excessive sleep need, and the inability of the patient to sleep.<sup>20</sup> Like this study, Sayed and Younis<sup>14</sup> compared pre- and post-relaxation sleep levels in HD patients who received PMRE once daily for 30 days and found a significant decrease in sleep disturbance. Daytime dysfunction is daytime napping and the inability to perform daytime functions due to inadequate sleep in HD patients.<sup>20</sup> HD patients participate in the HD program two or three times a week. During the HD procedure, they lie down, and each session lasts at least four hours, allowing them to sleep. However, this can disrupt the circadian rhythm, which significantly affects sleep quality. The resulting disruption in circadian rhythm can lead to daytime dysfunction. By addressing these issues, PMRE is believed to be beneficial for improving the daytime dysfunction subdomain.

Sleep medications can be used for short-term treatment of insomnia. Similarly, Saeedi et al.<sup>15</sup> looked at how PMRE affected the quality of sleep in HD patients and found results similar to this study. The only area where the groups did not differ significantly was the use of sleep medications.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, Sayed and Younis<sup>14</sup>

found no significant difference in the sleep medication usage score between the groups. The lack of difference in PSQI sleep medication usage may be due to the participants who used sleep medication needing to take the medication regularly, even if their sleep quality improved. Therefore, we might suggest conducting studies that assess sleep quality over a longer period to better understand the effects.

### Study Limitations

Only patients undergoing HD treatment participated in this study, which took place at a single healthcare center. The study used subjective self-report scales to assess sleep quality, and patients may have experienced fatigue during the questionnaire filling process. Additionally, the researcher's increased interaction with the intervention group for teaching and reminders about the exercises might have created a subjective sense of well-being.

### Conclusion

We investigated the impact of PMRE on sleep quality in patients undergoing HD treatment. PMRE was effective in improving sleep quality by reducing both the PSQI global sleep score and PSQI sub-dimension scores (except for sleep medication usage). The study evaluated the effectiveness after an eight-week intervention period. We recommend further studies to assess the longer-term effects of exercises. Patients easily learned and adapted to the PMRE exercises. Integrating PMRE into patient education programs and implementing it within HD units could enhance its utilization among patients.

### Ethics

**Ethics Committee Approval:** To conduct the research, ethical approval was obtained from the KTO Karatay University Faculty of Medicine, Pharmaceutical and Non-Medical Device Research Ethics Committee under the decision number 2022/006 (date: 14.01.2022), and permission was obtained from the institution where the research would be conducted.

**Informed Consent:** Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, and written consent was obtained from the participants.

### Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: H.G.H., F.G., Concept: H.G.H., F.G., Design: H.G.H., F.G., Data Collection or Processing: H.G.H., F.G., Analysis or Interpretation: H.G.H., F.G., Literature Search: H.G.H., F.G., Writing: H.G.H., F.G.

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# The Prevalence of Restless Legs Syndrome in Pregnancy and Its Relationship with Vitamin and Mineral Use

## Gebelikte Huzursuz Bacak Sendromunun Görülme Sıklığı ve Vitamin Mineral Kullanımı ile İlişkisi

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### Abstract

**Objective:** The purpose of this study is to investigate the prevalence of restless legs syndrome (RLS) in pregnancy and its relationship with vitamin and mineral use.

**Materials and Methods:** The study used a cross-sectional design. The target population of the study was 612 pregnant women. Data were collected between September and December 2020 using the "pregnant woman information form", the "RLS diagnostic criteria questionnaire" and the "RLS severity assessment scale".

**Results:** Around one in eight participating pregnant women were found to have RLS symptoms. We found that more than half of the pregnant women with RLS experience severe symptoms of RLS. Pregnant women's RLS symptoms were found to as the income level decreased, gestational week increased, coffee consumption increased, weight gained during pregnancy increased, and the number of weekly exercises decreased; RLS symptoms were less common in pregnant women who used magnesium, multivitamin, folic acid and vitamin D ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that RLS is an important health problem in pregnancy and the use of magnesium, multivitamins, folic acid, and Vitamin D reduces the prevalence of RLS.

**Keywords:** Pregnancy, restless legs syndrome, vitamin and mineral use

### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmanın amacı, gebelikte huzursuz bacak sendromu (HBS) prevalansını ve bunun vitamin ve mineral kullanımı ile ilişkisini araştırmaktır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Çalışmada kesitsel bir tasarım kullanılmıştır. Çalışmanın hedef popülasyonu 612 gebe kadındır. Veriler Eylül ve Aralık 2020 tarihleri arasında "gebe kadın bilgi formu", "HBS tanı kriterleri anketi" ve "HBS şiddet değerlendirme ölçeği" kullanılarak toplanmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Araştırmaya katılan yaklaşık her sekiz hamile kadından birinde HBS semptomları tespit edilmiştir. HBS olan hamile kadınların yarısından fazlasının şiddetli HBS yaşadığı tespit edilmiştir. Gelir düzeyi düştükçe, gebelik haftası arttıkça, kahve tüketimi arttıkça, gebelikte alınan kilo arttıkça ve haftalık egzersiz sayısı azaldıkça gebelerin HBS semptomlarının arttığı; magnezyum, multivitamin, folik asit ve D vitamini kullanan gebelerde HBS semptomlarının daha az görüldüğü saptanmıştır ( $p<0,05$ ).

**Sonuç:** Bu çalışma, HBS'nin gebelikte önemli bir sağlık sorunu olduğunu ve magnezyum, multivitamin, folik asit ve D vitamini kullanımının HBS prevalansını azalttığını göstermiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Gebelik, huzursuz bacak sendromu, vitamin ve mineral kullanımı

### Introduction

Restless legs syndrome (RLS) is a neurological disorder associated with the urge to move legs due to uncomfortable sensations.<sup>1</sup> RLS, first described by Sir Thomas Willis, was defined by Karl Axel Ekbom in 1945 as restless legs.<sup>1</sup> The etiopathogenesis of RLS has not been fully explained. According to epidemiologic studies report the prevalence of RLS ranges from 1 to 15% in society.<sup>2</sup> The prevalence of RLS was reported to be 10% in North America and Europe and 0.1% in Asia. A community-based study in Turkey reported the prevalence of RLS as 3.1%.<sup>3</sup>

The prevalence of RLS in the general population ranges from 2 to 10% and women are affected two times more than men.<sup>4</sup> Pregnancy is a process that involves physiological, psychological, and social changes.<sup>5</sup> The risk of RLS increases due to factors such as hormonal changes, psychomotor reasons, anxiety, folate, and iron changes in the blood occurring during pregnancy.<sup>6</sup> A study with pregnant women in our country revealed the prevalence of RLS between 19% and 26%.<sup>7</sup> RLS is most common in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of pregnancy, and the symptoms regress when pregnancy is over. It is hypothesized that iron and folate

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deficiency, increased estrogen, progesterone and prolactin levels, and radiculopathy are involved in the development of RLS during pregnancy. The need for iron increases 3-4 times and the need for folate increases 8-10 times during pregnancy.<sup>2</sup> In 1982, dopamine agonists were found to improve RLS, and the dopaminergic system was proven to have an important role in the origin of the disease. Iron works as a cofactor in dopamine synthesis, and iron deficiency delays dopamine synthesis<sup>8,9</sup>, which indicates a relationship between changing vitamin and mineral needs and RLS during pregnancy.

Pregnant women can consume supplements to meet their changing vitamin and mineral needs during pregnancy. The most important micronutrients as supplements during pregnancy include vitamins A, B, C, D, and E, folic acid, iron, zinc, iodine, copper and selenium.<sup>10</sup> Adequate and balanced nutrition during preconceptional and gestational periods is important for maternal and fetal health. Some countries provide selected food supplements to meet micronutrient needs, while others recommend supplementation intake throughout the antenatal period. The World Health Organization recommends oral iron and folic acid intake during the antenatal period.<sup>11</sup> Pregnant women should be evaluated holistically by nurses to protect maternal and fetal health and to improve women's quality of life during pregnancy. Considering the high prevalence of RLS syndrome during pregnancy and its negative effects on quality of life, it is important for nurses to examine this issue sufficiently and teach appropriate coping methods to pregnant women in this context.<sup>6</sup> The literature includes findings demonstrating the relationship between nutrition and RLS.<sup>8,12</sup> However, this relationship is nutrition-oriented, and the literature knowledge that reveals its relationship with supplements is limited.<sup>8,13</sup> This study aims to increase the quality of care to be provided to pregnant women by nurses to help women cope with RLS and increase the quality of care to be provided to women and enhance maternal and fetal health.

## Materials and Methods

### Participants

The target population of the study consisted of pregnant women who sought treatment in the obstetrics and gynecology outpatient clinic of Siirt Training and Research Hospital. The hospital has three outpatient clinics and provides service to 1,800 patients monthly. The study included 612 pregnant women as the sample, representing the target population with a rate of 0.95 in the 95% confidence interval determined with a 0.05 effect size and 0.05 margin of error according to the power analysis performed by taking the prevalence of RLS as 19 to 26%.<sup>7</sup>

The study included participating pregnant women using the random sampling method. We obtained ethics approval from the Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Health Sciences at İnönü University before starting the study (decision number: 2020/1024, date: 29.09.2020), and institutional permission from Siirt Training and Research Hospital affiliated with Siirt Provincial Health Directorate. Before initiating

the study, we informed the pregnant women about its purpose, assured them that the information they provided would remain confidential and used only for research purposes, granted them the freedom to leave the study at any time, and obtained their written consent. Data were collected by the researchers in the hospital environment by meeting the participants face-to-face every day between 08.30 and 16.30 on weekdays between May 8, 2020 and May 14, 2021.

### Data Collection

Data were collected through the "pregnant woman information form" developed by the researchers in line with the literature<sup>6,10,14</sup>, "RLS criteria questionnaire"<sup>2,7,8,15</sup> and the "RLS severity assessment scale".<sup>16,17</sup>

### Statistical Analysis

Data analysis was performed in the computer environment using the SPSS Statistics 25.0 software. We used descriptive analysis descriptive analyses, chi-square, t-test in independent groups, and Cronbach's alpha reliability analysis for statistical analyses. While the confidence interval was accepted at 95%, significance was accepted at  $p < 0.05$ .

## Results

Of all the participating pregnant women, 48.4% were between the ages of 18 to 25. 26.8% of the participants had primary school education and 26.6% had secondary school or equivalent education, and 96.9% were unemployed. As for their monthly income, 83.7% of the pregnant women stated that their monthly income was less than their monthly expenses (Table 1). For 50.8% of pregnant women, the gestational week was 27 weeks or more. Besides, 52.2% of the pregnant women had three or more pregnancies and 28.8% had never given birth before (Table 1).

The reports showed that 6.4% of the pregnant women smoked, 85.1% drank at least one cup of tea daily and 26% consumed at least one cup of coffee daily during their pregnancy. 22.5% of them exercised at least once a week. The body mass index (BMI) values were below 18.5 in 5.4% of participating women, between 18.5 and 25 in 56%, and over 25 in 38.6%. The weight gain during pregnancy was found to be 6 kg and less in 49.4% of participating women, between 7 and 12 in 33%, and 13 kg and more in 17.6%. 29.9% of pregnant women experienced anemia during pregnancy, 13.2% were diagnosed with RLS according to the RLS diagnostic criteria questionnaire. Among those who were diagnosed with RLS 19.8% had moderate RLS symptoms, 69.1% had severe and 11.1% had very severe symptoms (Table 1).

No statistically significant difference was detected between the education level, employment status, number of pregnancies, number of deliveries, smoking, tea consumption, exercising, BMI before pregnancy, anemia status and age, and the presence of RLS ( $p > 0.05$ ). The rate of RLS diagnosis was found to be higher in those whose monthly income was less than their expenses (76.1%) than in those whose monthly income was equal to or more than their expenses (23.9%) ( $p < 0.05$ ). While the average gestational week was  $29.36 \pm 10.68$  in pregnant

Table 1. Distribution of pregnant women's sociodemographic, obstetric, and other characteristics and the prevalence and severity of RLS (n=612)		
Characteristics	n	%
<b>Age*</b>		
18-25	296	48.4
26-35	271	44.3
36-45	45	7.3
<b>Education level</b>		
Literate	143	23.4
Primary school	164	26.8
Secondary school	163	26.6
High school and above	142	23.2
<b>Employed or not</b>		
Yes	19	3.1
No	593	96.9
<b>Monthly income</b>		
Income less than expenses	512	83.7
Income equal to or more than expenses	100	16.3
<b>Gestational week</b>		
13 Weeks and less	139	22.7
14-26 Weeks	162	26.5
27 Weeks and more	311	50.8
<b>Number of pregnancies</b>		
1-2	292	47.8
3 and more	320	52.3
<b>Number of deliveries</b>		
None	176	28.8
1	162	26.5
2	112	18.2
3 and more	162	26.5
<b>Smoking</b>		
Yes	39	6.4
No	573	93.6
<b>Consuming tea</b>		
Yes	521	85.1
No	91	14.9
<b>Consuming coffee</b>		
Yes	159	26.0
No	453	74.0
<b>Exercising</b>		
Yes	138	22.5
No	474	77.5
<b>BMI before pregnancy</b>		
18.5 and less	33	5.4
18.5 to 25	343	56.0
25 and over	236	38.6

Table 1. Continued		
Characteristics	n	%
<b>Weight gained during pregnancy**</b>		
6 kg and below	302	49.4
7 to 12 kg	202	33.0
13 kg and more	108	17.6
<b>Anemia during pregnancy</b>		
Yes	183	29.9
No	429	70.1
Total	612	100.0
<b>Restless legs syndrome</b>		
Yes	81	13.2
No	531	86.8
<b>The severity of restless legs syndrome</b>		
Moderate	16	19.8
Severe	56	69.1
Very severe	9	11.1
*Average age: 26.64±5.37, min-max: 17-45 **Weight gained during pregnancy: 7.29±6.26		
BMI: Body mass index, RLS: Restless legs syndrome		

women who were diagnosed with RLS, it was 24.14±11.67 in those who were not diagnosed with RLS ( $p<0.05$ ). The average weight gain during pregnancy was found to be 9.55±6.68 in pregnant women who were diagnosed with RLS during pregnancy and 7.33±7.85 in those who were not diagnosed with RLS ( $p<0.05$ ). Those diagnosed with RLS during pregnancy reported consuming coffee at a rate of 37.3%, whereas those without the diagnosis reported consuming coffee at a rate of 24.2% (Table 2).

A statistically significant relationship was found between the use of magnesium, multivitamins, folic acid, and vitamin D during pregnancy and being diagnosed with RLS ( $p<0.05$ ). Of the participating pregnant women who were diagnosed with RLS, 12.3% used magnesium while 87.7% did not; 22.8% used multivitamins while 77.8% did not; 22.9% used folic acid while 77.1% did not; and 49.4% used vitamin D while 50.6% did not ( $p<0.05$ ).

Pregnant women who used magnesium, multivitamins, folic acid, and vitamin D had a lower incidence of RLS. No statistically significant difference was found between iron use and being diagnosed with RLS ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 3).

## Discussion

Epidemiologic studies have revealed the prevalence of RLS as 11 to 22.5% in pregnancy.<sup>7,18-20</sup> The prevalence of RLS in pregnancy is reported to be between 19% and 26% in our country.<sup>7</sup> This study found that one out of every eight pregnant women had RLS (Table 1). The prevalence of RLS was reported to be 11.2% by Shang et al.<sup>18</sup> 12% by Ma et al.<sup>20</sup> and 13.5% by Alves et al.<sup>19</sup> A study conducted by Çakmak et al.<sup>7</sup> in our country revealed the prevalence of RLS in pregnant women as 15.4%.

Our finding is similar to the findings reported by Shang et al.<sup>18</sup>, Ma et al.<sup>20</sup>, Alves et al.<sup>19</sup>, and Çakmak et al.<sup>7</sup>.

Three out of every four participating pregnant women diagnosed with RLS were found to have severe RLS symptoms (Table 1). Alves et al.<sup>19</sup> reported that 53.5% of pregnant women with RLS experienced severe and very severe RLS symptoms. Vahdat et al.<sup>21</sup> reported that 74.7% of pregnant women experienced moderate RLS symptoms. Akbaş<sup>22</sup> also reported that 40.5%

of pregnant women experienced severe RLS symptoms. Our findings are comparable to those of other studies.

No statistically significant difference was found between age and RLS ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). Published evidence on the relationship between age and RLS during pregnancy is contradictory. While Manconi et al.<sup>23</sup>, Sikandar et al.<sup>24</sup>, and Liu et al.<sup>25</sup> reported a relationship between age and RLS, Chen et al.<sup>26</sup>, Hübner et al.<sup>27</sup>, and Vahdat et al.<sup>21</sup> found no relationship. The findings of the

**Table 2. Comparison of pregnant women's receiving restless legs syndrome diagnosis and some variables (n=612)**

		RLS				Test, p
		Yes (n=81)		No (n=531)		
Variables		n	%	n	%	
Education level	Literate	12	16.7	131	24.4	$\chi^2= 7.315$ $p=0.120$
	Primary school	25	31.0	139	26.2	
	Secondary school	28	33.2	135	25.6	
	High school and above	16	19.0	126	23.8	
Employed or not	Yes	3	3.6	16	3.0	$\chi^2= 0.111$ $p=0.729$
	No	78	96.4	515	97.0	
Monthly income	Income less than expenses	61	76.1	452	84.8	$\chi^2= 4.992$ $p=0.025$
	Income equal to or more than expenses	20	23.9	79	15.2	
Number of deliveries	None	24	29.8	152	28.6	$\chi^2= 0.478$ $p=0.924$
	1	23	27.4	139	26.3	
	2	15	17.9	97	18.4	
	3 and more	19	25	143	26.7	
Smoking	Yes	9	10.7	30	5.7	$\chi^2=3.513$ $p=0.061$
	No	72	89.3	501	94.3	
Tea consumption/cup/day	Yes	74	91.6	447	84.1	$\chi^2=2.860$ $p=0.091$
	No	7	8.4	84	15.9	
Coffee consumption/cup/day	Yes	31	37.3	128	24.2	$\chi^2=7.334$ $p=0.007$
	No	50	62.7	403	75.8	
Exercising/times/weekly	Yes	25	30.1	113	21.4	$\chi^2=3.696$ $p=0.055$
	No	56	69.9	418	78.6	
BMI before pregnancy	Below 18.5	3	3.7	30	5.6	$\chi^2=1.418$ $p=0.492$
	Between 18.5 and 25	50	61.7	293	55.2	
	Over 25	28	34.6	208	39.2	
Anemia	Yes	22	17.8	161	30.3	$\chi^2=0.335$ $p=0.563$
	No	59	82.2	370	69.7	
Number of pregnancies	1 and 2	40	48.8	252	47.5	$\chi^2=0.104$ $p=0.747$
	3 and more	41	51.2	279	52.5	
		$\bar{X}\pm SD$		$\bar{X}\pm SD$		
Weight gained during pregnancy		9.55±6.68		7.33±7.85		$t=2.409$ $p=0.016$
Gestational week		29.36±10.68		24.14±11.67		$t=4.045$ $p=0.001$
Age		26.57±5.63		26.65±5.33		$t=-0.125$ $p=0.901$
BMI: Body mass index, RLS: Restless legs syndrome, SD: Standard deviation						

BMI: Body mass index, RLS: Restless legs syndrome, SD: Standard deviation

**Table 3. Comparison of pregnant women's receiving restless legs syndrome diagnosis and vitamin and mineral use during pregnancy (n=612)**

		RLS				
Vitamins and minerals		Yes (n=81)		No (n=531)		Test, p
		n	%	n	%	
Iron use	Yes	26	33.7	218	40.9	$\chi^2=2.351$ $p=0.125$
	No	55	66.3	313	59.1	
Magnesium use	Yes	10	12.3	21	4.0	$\chi^2=13.140$ $p=0.001$
	No	71	87.7	510	96.0	
Multivitamin use	Yes	18	22.8	191	36.0	$\chi^2=5.907$ $p=0.015$
	No	63	77.8	340	64.0	
Folic acid use	Yes	17	22.9	181	34.1	$\chi^2=5.801$ $p=0.016$
	No	64	77.1	350	65.9	
Vitamin D use	Yes	40	49.4	147	27.7	$\chi^2=15.595$ $p=0.001$
	No	41	50.6	384	72.3	

RLS: Restless legs syndrome

present study are similar to the studies conducted by Chen et al.<sup>26</sup>, Hübner et al.<sup>27</sup>, and Vahdat et al.<sup>21</sup>

No significant relationship was found between the education and employment status of participating pregnant women and RLS diagnosis ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). The study conducted by Akbaş<sup>22</sup> also indicated no relationship between pregnant women's working status and education level and RLS diagnosis. Our findings are comparable to those reported by Akbaş.<sup>22</sup>

The decrease in pregnant women's income level prevents them from accessing their daily vitamin needs and adequate nutrition. Therefore, there is an inverse relationship between income level and RLS.<sup>28</sup> Health status and health perception levels are reported to increase with the increase in income level.<sup>29,30</sup> An epidemiologic study conducted by Cho et al.<sup>31</sup> revealed a relationship between income perception and RLS as well as an inverse relationship between the increase in income level and the prevalence of RLS. In this study, the prevalence of RLS was found to increase with the decrease in the income level perception ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 2), which is parallel with the finding reported by Cho et al.<sup>31</sup>

The prevalence of RLS increases when estradiol reaches the highest level in the third trimester of pregnancy. The decrease in the prevalence and severity of RLS after birth is associated with the normalization of estrogen levels.<sup>32</sup> Progesterone level also increases during pregnancy and reaches its peak in the third trimester; its relationship with RLS is due to the interaction between progesterone and dopamine in the striatum, the nucleus of the basal ganglia.<sup>32</sup> Our study found that the prevalence of RLS increased with the increase in the gestational week ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 2). Taylor and Lebovic<sup>33</sup> reported the prevalence of RLS highest in the third trimester. Estradiol levels were found to be significantly higher in women with RLS symptoms in the third trimester compared to women with no RLS symptoms.<sup>32</sup> The findings in this study are comparable to the ones reported by Taylor and Lebovic.<sup>33</sup>

The number of pregnancies and the number of deliveries were found to have no significant relationship with RLS ( $p>0.05$ )

(Table 2). Berger et al.<sup>34</sup> reported that the prevalence of RLS in pregnant women was strongly associated with the number of deliveries. The study conducted by Şahin et al.<sup>35</sup> showed that the prevalence of RLS in pregnant women wasn't affected by the number of pregnancies and births. Similarly, Çakmak et al.<sup>7</sup> discovered that there was no association between the number of pregnancies, number of deliveries, and RLS. The finding in this study is in line with the findings of Şahin et al.<sup>35</sup> and Çakmak et al.<sup>7</sup> The difference between the present study and the findings reported by Berger et al.<sup>34</sup> is considered to be due to cultural reasons.

Smoking and BMI were not associated with RLS in this study ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). Esposito et al.<sup>36</sup> reported that smoking during pregnancy and BMI were not associated with RLS. The findings of this study are parallel with those reported by Esposito et al.<sup>36</sup>

This study found no significant relationship between tea consumption and RLS ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). The study conducted by Khan et al.<sup>37</sup> with pregnant women showed that tea consumption was not associated with RLS. The findings in this study are similar to those reported by Khan et al.<sup>37</sup>

No statistically significant relationship was found between BMI before pregnancy and RLS diagnosis ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). Esposito et al.<sup>36</sup> also reported no significant difference in terms of BMI between pregnant women with and without RLS diagnosis. These findings in this study are similar to those reported by Esposito et al.<sup>36</sup>

It is reported that being overweight may be associated with low hemoglobin levels in serum, which may trigger RLS. Severe obesity is reported to be associated with RLS in the study conducted by Lee.<sup>38</sup> A significant relationship was found between pregnant women's weight gain during pregnancy and their RLS diagnosis ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 2). RLS was found to be more common in those who gained a lot of weight during pregnancy. The study conducted by Minar et al.<sup>39</sup> reported that high weight gain during pregnancy affected RLS diagnosis positively. The findings are in this study are similar to those reported by Minar et al.<sup>39</sup>



No significant relationship was found between pregnant women's exercise routine and RLS ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 3). Liu et al.<sup>25</sup> found no significant relationship between pregnant women's exercise status and the presence of RLS. The findings of this study are similar to those reported by Liu et al.<sup>25</sup>

The development of RLS during pregnancy was suggested to be potentially associated with iron and folate deficiencies. During pregnancy, the need for iron increases three to four times, and the need for folate increases eight to ten times.<sup>9</sup> The prevalence of RLS is reported to be less in those who take folate supplements during pregnancy.<sup>21</sup> This study found no significant relationship between iron use and RLS diagnosis ( $p>0.05$ ). Almeneessie et al.<sup>40</sup> found a significant and positive correlation between iron deficiency and RLS diagnosis ( $p<0.05$ ). Manconi et al.<sup>2</sup> found that folate supplementation was not associated with the presence or absence of RLS. The difference between Almeneessie et al.<sup>40</sup> and our study's findings are considered to be caused by nutrition as it is influenced by cultural factors, which have an indirect role in the prevalence of anemia. The findings are similar to those reported by Manconi et al.<sup>2</sup>

This study found that the prevalence of RLS was less in pregnant women who used multivitamins ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 3). Almeneessie et al.<sup>40</sup> and Çakmak et al.<sup>7</sup> both reported no significant relationship between multivitamin use and the prevalence of RLS during pregnancy in their respective studies. The difference with the finding of Almeneessie et al.<sup>40</sup> is considered to be due to racial differences. The reason for the difference with the finding of Çakmak et al.<sup>7</sup> is considered to be related to the duration and amount of multivitamin use.

The prevalence of RLS was found to be less in pregnant women who used magnesium ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 3). There are limited researches on the relationship between RLS diagnosis in pregnancy and magnesium level.<sup>41</sup> The study conducted by Yıldırım and Apaydın<sup>41</sup> reported that magnesium levels were lower in pregnant women with RLS symptoms. The findings in this study are similar to those reported by Yıldırım and Apaydın.<sup>41</sup> Vitamin D deficiency is reported to be associated with impaired dopaminergic neurotransmission. The role of vitamin D in the development of RLS was further supported by the higher concentration of vitamin D binding protein in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with RLS.<sup>40</sup> This study found that the RLS prevalence was less in pregnant women who used vitamin D ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 3). Almeneessie et al.<sup>40</sup> found a significant relationship between vitamin D and RLS ( $p<0.05$ ). This study has similar findings to the ones reported by Almeneessie et al.<sup>40</sup>

## Conclusion

Around one in every eight pregnant women was found to have RLS, and more than half of the pregnant women diagnosed with RLS experienced severe RLS. This study found that the RLS prevalence increased with the increase in the gestational week and in those who had low monthly income, who consumed coffee during pregnancy, and who did not exercise during pregnancy

( $p<0.05$ ). In addition, those who did not use magnesium, multivitamin, folic acid, and vitamin D during pregnancy received more RLS diagnoses than those who did ( $p<0.05$ ). Based on the findings obtained from the study, it is recommended that during pregnancy, necessary vitamin and mineral supplements should be taken in addition to adequate and balanced nutrition; nurses should inform pregnant women about RLS; pregnant women should try to benefit more from sunlight and use vitamin D to reduce the prevalence of RLS; and further studies should be conducted in larger sample groups in which vitamin and mineral use is evaluated by considering laboratory values.

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## Ethics

**Ethics Committee Approval:** We obtained ethics approval from the Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Health Sciences at İnönü University before starting the study (decision number: 2020/1024, date: 29.09.2020), and institutional permission from Siirt Training and Research Hospital affiliated with Siirt Provincial Health Directorate.

**Informed Consent:** Before initiating the study, we informed the pregnant women about its purpose, assured them that the information they provided would remain confidential and used only for research purposes, granted them the freedom to leave the study at any time, and obtained their written consent.

## Authorship Contributions

Design: F.B., S.T.T., Data Collection or Processing: F.B., S.T.T., Analysis or Interpretation: F.B., S.T.T., Literature Search: F.B., S.T.T., Writing: F.B., S.T.T.

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# Sleep Disorders in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

## İltihabi Bağırsak Hastalığı Olan Hastalarda Uyku Bozuklukları

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### Abstract

**Objective:** Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), including ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn's disease (CD), have been associated with sleep disturbances as extra-intestinal manifestations. We aimed to evaluate sleep quality in a group of Middle Eastern IBD patients while assessing the links between disease characteristics, sleep disturbances, and related comorbidities.

**Materials and Methods:** Outpatient IBD cases who attended our hospital clinic from 2019 to 2021 were recruited in this prospective study. The patients filled in verified translations of the insomnia severity index, Epworth sleepiness scale, Pittsburgh sleep quality index, Berlin questionnaire for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), and restless legs syndrome (RLS) questionnaire by means of online or phone surveys. The chi-squared test and Student's t-test were used for binary and continuous variables, respectively. The Mann-Whitney U test was used for non-normally distributed data.

**Results:** The sleep quality of 82 IBD patients (13 CD and 69 UC) was assessed. Low sleep quality was observed in 52 cases (63.4%), and UC patients with pancolitis were significantly more likely to have sleep disturbances compared to patients with partial colitis ( $p=0.015$ ). Moreover, patients with elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) displayed significantly higher frequencies of OSA and RLS ( $p=0.038$  and  $p=0.040$ , respectively).

**Conclusion:** Sleep impairment was identified in more than half of our IBD patient pool. Therefore, we suggest screening for sleep disturbances (particularly in UC patients with pancolitis) and related comorbidities, such as OSA and RLS (especially in patients with elevated CRP levels), in IBD patients to enhance their quality of sleep.

**Keywords:** Sleep, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis, Crohn disease

### Öz

**Amaç:** İltihabi bağırsak hastalıkları (İBH), özellikle ülseratif kolit (ÜK) ve Crohn hastalığı (CH) ekstra-intestinal belirtiler olarak uyku bozuklukları ile ilişkilendirilmiştir. Ortadoğulu bir İBH hastası grubunda uyku kalitesini değerlendirmeyi ve hastalık özellikleri, uyku bozuklukları ve ilişkili komorbiditeler arasındaki bağlantıları değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Bu prospektif çalışmaya 2019-2021 yılları arasında hastanemizin kliniğine ayaktan başvuran İBH olguları dahil edilmiştir. Hastalar, çevrimiçi veya telefon anketleri aracılığıyla doğrulanmış insomnia şiddet indeksi, Epworth uyukluluk ölçeği, Pittsburgh uyku kalitesi indeksi, obstrüktif uyku apnesi (OSA) için Berlin anketi ve huzursuz bacak sendromu (RLS) anketinin tercümelerini doldurdular. İkili değişkenler için ki-kare testi ve sürekli değişkenler için Student t-testi kullanıldı. Normale uymayan dağılıma sahip veriler için Mann-Whitney U testi kullanıldı.

**Bulgular:** Seksen iki İBH hastasının (13 CH ve 69 ÜK) uyku kalitesi değerlendirildi. Düşük uyku kalitesi 52 olguda (%63,4) gözlemlendi. Pankolitisi ÜK hastalarında kısmi koliti olan hastalara göre uyku bozukluğu görülme olasılığı önemli ölçüde daha yüksekti ( $p=0,015$ ). Yüksek C-reaktif protein (CRP) düzeyleri gösteren hastalarda OSA ve RLS sıklığı anlamlı olarak daha yüksekti ( $p=0,038$  ve  $p=0,040$ , sırasıyla).

**Sonuç:** İBH hastalarının yarısından fazlasında uyku bozukluğu tespit edildi. Bu hastalarda uyku bozuklukları (özellikle pankolitisi ÜK hastalarında) ve OSA ve RLS gibi ilişkili komorbiditelerin (özellikle yüksek CRP düzeylerine sahip hastalarda) taranmasını öneriyoruz, böylece bu hastalardaki uyku kalitesini artırabiliriz.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Uyku, iltihabi bağırsak hastalıkları, ülseratif kolit, Crohn hastalığı

#Ali Moradi and Mahnaz Amini contributed equally to the first authorship.

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## Introduction

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs) are chronic conditions of the gastrointestinal tract comprised of two major relapsing/remitting disorders, namely Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC).<sup>1</sup> Even though the IBD incidence rate seems constant or decreasing in most western societies, its burden remains significant due to its prevalence exceeding 0.3% in Oceania, North America, and the majority of European countries, and even rising in Asia, South America, and Africa.<sup>2</sup> These disorders are associated with increased mortality, along with a diverse array of morbidities, such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, irritable bowel syndrome<sup>3,4</sup>, fatigue, anxiety, depression, and a general reduction in the quality of life.<sup>5-8</sup>

Some studies have suggested that a considerable number of IBD patients may suffer from sleep disorders and circadian rhythm disruptions, both of which result in harmful consequences, such as increased risk of disease exacerbation, frequent relapses, hospitalization, and surgery.<sup>9-18</sup> Sleep deprivation affects immune function through activating pro-inflammatory responses, such as increased production of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , interleukin (IL)-1, and IL-6 as cytokines associated with the pathogenesis of IBD.<sup>19-22</sup> Impaired sleep also seems to be linked with anxiety, depression, and comorbidities, such as restless legs syndrome (RLS) and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in IBD patients, even though information regarding these associations is still limited.<sup>5,7,11,23-30</sup>

The impact of sleep quality on IBD courses is poorly understood, and most related studies have been conducted in Western societies, leading to a paucity of data on Middle Eastern and South Asian populations. We aimed to evaluate sleep quality in IBD patients, as well as the links between disease characteristics, sleep disorders, and related comorbidities.

## Materials and Methods

This cross-sectional study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (approval number: IR.MUMS.MEDICAL.REC.1398.447, date: 30.07.2019) and performed on adult subjects with confirmed IBD according to the "American Gastroenterological Association Institute Guideline on Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in IBD", whose data were registered in the registry of IBD patients in Mashhad, Iran. Informed consent was signed by all participants in this study.

The diagnosis of IBD was made by an expert gastroenterologist according to the clinical symptoms, as well as endoscopic, imaging, laboratory, and pathology investigations after ruling out other colitis etiologies.<sup>1,31</sup> Patients receiving any tranquilizers or anti-anxiety medications were excluded from the study.

The Persian versions of the Pittsburgh sleep quality index (PSQI)<sup>32</sup>, insomnia severity index (ISI)<sup>33</sup>, Epworth sleepiness scale (ESS)<sup>34</sup>, Berlin questionnaire (BQ) for OSA<sup>35</sup>, and RLS assessment questionnaire (RLSAQ)<sup>36</sup> were used to investigate sleep quality and the risk of sleep disorders. The ISI is comprised of seven questions. An ISI score of 0-7 means no clinically significant insomnia, while 8-14, 15-21, and 22-28 stand for subthreshold, moderate severity, and severe insomnia, respectively.

The ESS is comprised of eight questions (scoring from 0-3) and is used as a subjective measure of sleepiness and dozing off. An ESS score of 0-7 means that it is unlikely that the patient is abnormally sleepy; 8-9 stands for an average amount of daytime sleepiness; 10-15 means that the patient may be excessively sleepy depending on the situation and may want to consider seeking medical attention; and 16-24 means that the patient is excessively sleepy and should consider seeking medical attention. The BQ consists of three categories, including snoring, daytime fatigue and sleepiness, as well as medical history and anthropometric measures. The patient is considered high-risk for OSA when two or more categories are positive. The PSQI is a 19-item, self-rated questionnaire consisting of seven components, each scoring 0-3, with 3 indicating the greatest dysfunction. A PSQI score of  $\geq 5$  is defined as poor sleep quality. After recording the medical history [including age, gender, body mass index (BMI), disease activity, and colon involvement] and the results from the physical examination, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C-reactive protein (CRP), and hemoglobin (Hb) were checked.

## Statistical Analysis

The IBM SPSS Statistics (version 21; IBM Inc., Armonk, New York) software package was used for data analysis. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation for continuous variables and as frequency for categorical variables. Intergroup comparisons were investigated by the chi-squared test for binary variables and the Student's t-test for continuous variables. The Mann-Whitney U test was employed for the data that was not distributed normally. A p-value of  $<0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## Results

A total of 82 IBD patients, including 13 patients with CD and 69 with UC (a mean age of  $38.9 \pm 11.5$  years, 32% male), were consecutively included in this study. The demographic data of patient participants in this study is shown in Figure 1.

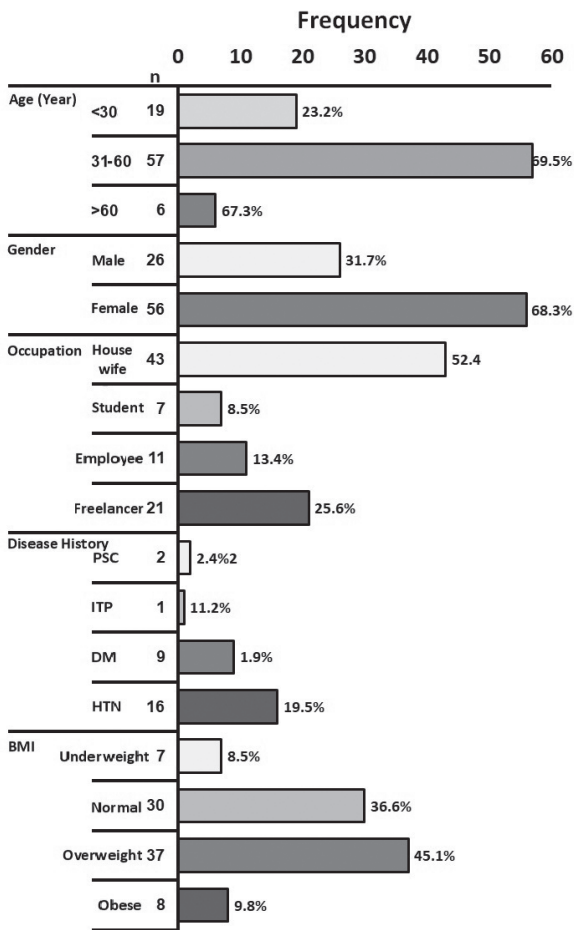
The frequencies of different disease conditions are shown in Figure 2. Almost 80% ( $n=65$ ) of the participants were in the remission phase of the disease, while only 20.7% ( $n=17$ ) were in the active phase. In total, 50.7% ( $n=35$ ) of patients with left-colon involvement or less and 49.3% ( $n=34$ ) of those with pancolitis had poor sleep quality.

Poor sleep quality (according to PSQI scores) was reported in 52 patients (63.4%) overall. In addition, RLS was reported in 51 IBD cases (62.2%), and the high risk of sleep apnea was evident in 18 individuals (Figure 3).

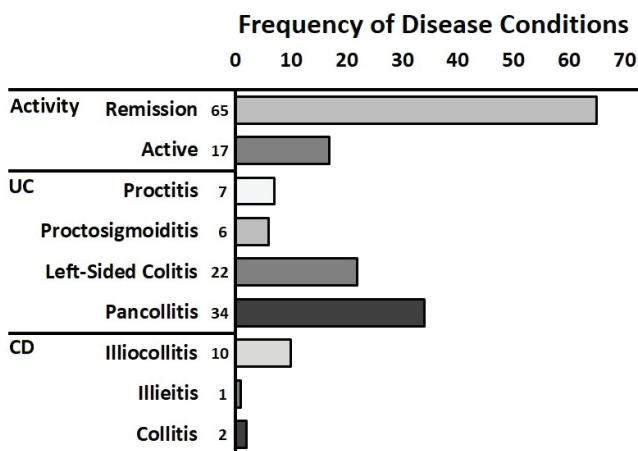
No statistically significant relationship was found between the extent of involvement and ISI scores, OSA, and RLS. Furthermore, we could not provide any statistically significant comparisons in CD patients due to the insufficient number of CD cases.

Almost 72% ( $n=52$ ) of IBD patients were suffering from impaired sleep quality based on PSQI. Although 61.5% ( $n=40$ ) and 70.5% ( $n=12$ ) of patients in remission and active phases, respectively, had impaired sleep quality based on PSQI, no





**Figure 1.** Demographic data of patient participants  
BMI: Body mass index, PSC: Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, ITP: Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura, DM: Diabetes Mellitus, HTN: Hypertension

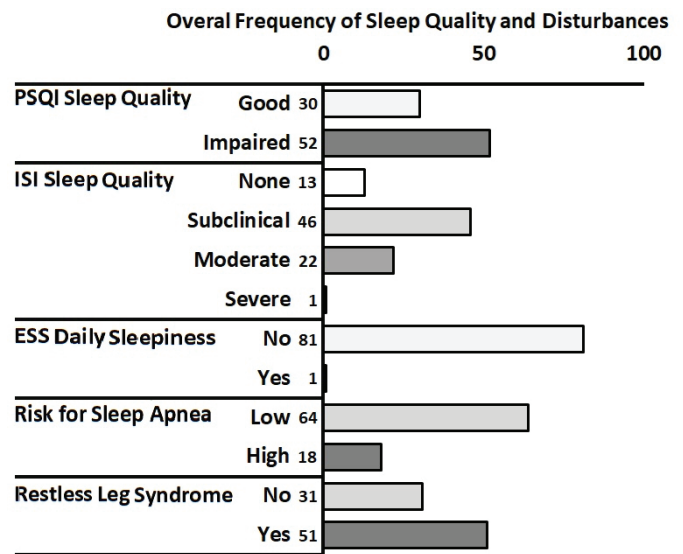


**Figure 2.** Frequency of different disease conditions among study participants  
UC: Ulcerative colitis, CD: Crohn's disease

statistically significant difference was found in the distribution of good or bad sleep quality between these two groups of patients ( $p=0.49$ ) (Figure 4 G). Patients with elevated CRP demonstrated a significantly higher frequency of OSA (38.1%) than patients with normal CRP levels (16.4%) ( $p=0.038$ ). Additionally, there was a higher likelihood that patients with elevated CRP levels suffered from RLS (81%) ( $p=0.040$ ). However, no significant correlation was seen between elevated CRP and sleep quality ( $p=0.72$ ), as well as insomnia severity ( $p=0.82$ ). Other factors such as age ( $p=0.771$ ,  $p=0.469$ ,  $p=0.202$ , and  $p=0.111$ ), gender ( $p=0.22$ ,  $p=0.568$ ,  $p=0.459$ , and  $p=0.121$ ), BMI ( $p=0.116$ ,  $p=0.62$ ,  $p=0.149$ , and  $p=0.778$ ), anemia, ESR ( $p=0.543$ ,  $p=0.566$ ,  $p=0.104$ , and  $p=0.674$ ), and disease activity ( $p=0.49$ ,  $p=0.33$ ,  $p=0.86$ , and  $p=0.423$ ) did not show any statistically significant relations with PSQI, ISI, OSA, or RLS scores (Figure 4).

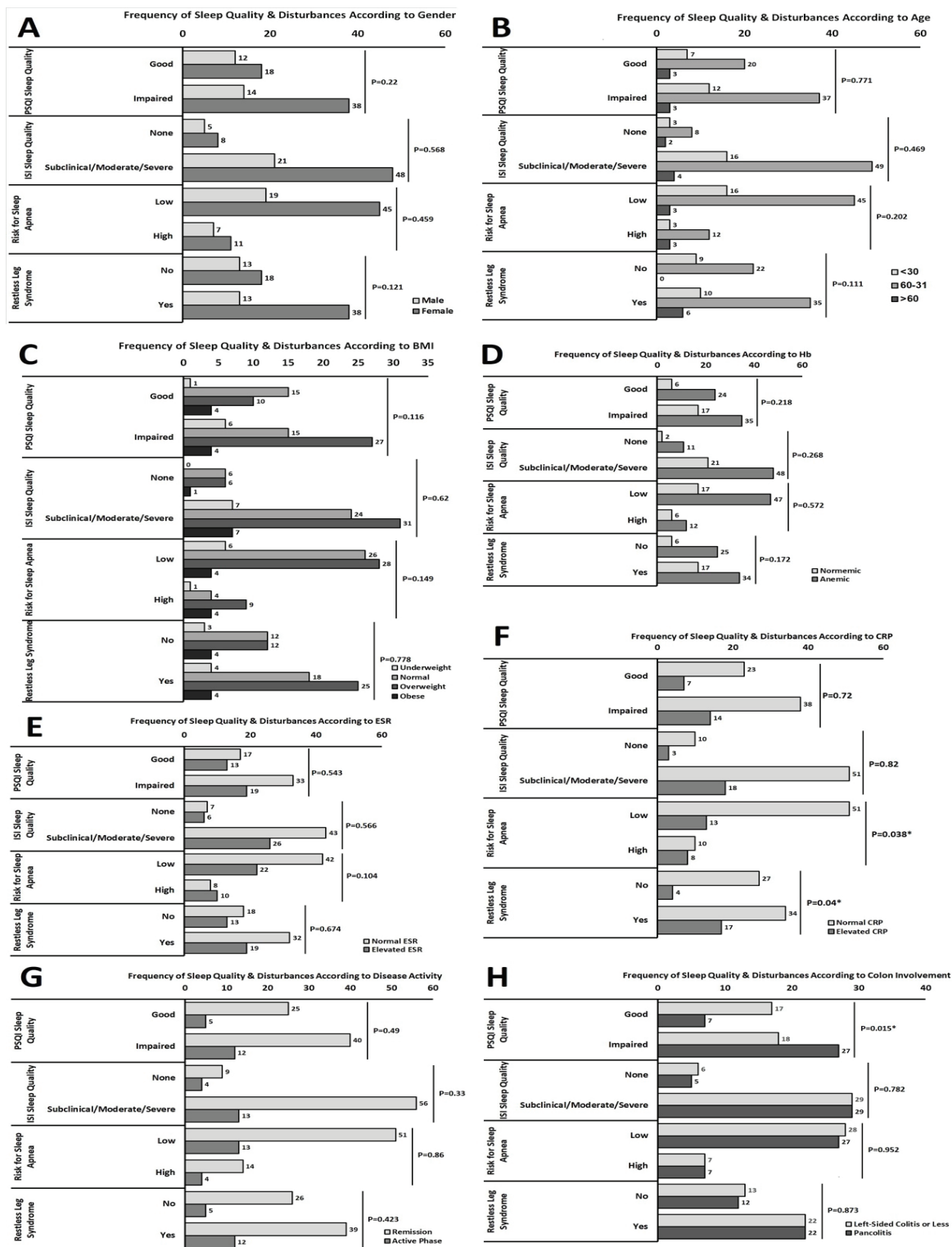
## Discussion

The association between IBD and sleep quality has not yet been clearly elucidated. In this study, sleep disturbances were evaluated in patients with IBD. According to the findings, sleep impairment was evident in more than half of our IBD patient pool (63.4%). The frequency of poor sleep quality increased in UC patients with worse disease phenotypes (the extent of involvement). Patients with pancolitis were significantly more likely to have sleep disturbances than those with partial colitis. Additionally, IBD patients with elevated CRP displayed higher frequencies of OSA and RLS than cases with normal CPR levels. Our study could have benefited from a healthy control group for comparison. Furthermore, our patients were initially intended to undergo a polysomnography test; however, due to several



**Figure 3.** Overall frequency of sleep quality and sleep disturbances  
PSQI: Pittsburgh sleep quality index, ISI: Insomnia severity index, ESS: Epworth sleepiness scale





**Figure 4.** Frequencies of sleep disturbances according to (A) gender, (B) age, (C) BMI, (D) Hb, (E) ESR, (F) CRP, (G) disease activity, and (H) colon involvement  
PSQI: Pittsburgh sleep quality index, ISI: Insomnia severity index, BMI: Body mass index, Hb: Hemoglobin, ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate, CRP: C-reactive protein

constraints during the coronavirus disease-2019 pandemic, we were neither able to perform this test on our cases nor recruit a healthy control group willing to participate in our study.

Although the prevalence of IBD is known to be only slightly dominant in females, the significantly higher frequency of IBD in our study population can be attributed to the fact that our participants were recruited consecutively, and females are usually more cooperative in these sorts of studies.

Previous studies have recorded a wide range of prevalence rates for sleep disturbance in IBD patients, from 32% to 77%, and our patients fell on the more severe side of that spectrum.<sup>25,26,37-40</sup>

To the best of our knowledge, the relationship between disease phenotype (the extent of involvement) and sleep quality has not been previously studied. We identified a significant inverse relationship among these factors, meaning that the frequency of poor sleep quality in patients with pancolitis was significantly higher than patients with left-colon involvement or less.

A systematic review and meta-analysis has reported a significant association between disease activity and subjective sleep quality (pooled odds ratio: 3.52, 95% confidence interval: 1.82-6.83,  $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>41</sup> However, no association was found between disease activity and sleep quality in our patient pool. We have to point out that only 20.7% of our cases ( $n=17$ ) with active disease and 40 out of 65 patients in remission (61.5%) reported poor sleep quality. Other studies have also highlighted that poor sleep quality was not only common in patients with active IBD but was also a serious concern in inactive disease cases.<sup>26,42-44</sup>

Several studies have reported that patients with high CRP values (high inflammatory activity) were more likely to suffer from poor sleep quality<sup>30,37,45</sup>, whereas CRP levels were not associated with poor sleep quality, according to our findings. The aforementioned studies explained that they could not investigate the correlation between sleep quality and CRP values independent of disease activity as the majority of their patients with elevated CRP levels also suffered from clinically active disease. However, the number of patients who had active disease in our study was limited, and poor sleep quality was evident even in patients in remission, which might justify the absence of an association between CRP and sleep disturbance among our patients.

Our results for the first time showed that high CRP was associated with OSA and RLS. A recent study has shown that patients with active disease were more likely to be at a high risk for OSA<sup>46</sup>; however, no link was found between OSA and disease activity in our patient population. We recommend screening for OSA and RLS in patients with increased inflammatory activity, such as high CRP, regardless of the disease activity status.

According to our results, the management of subsequent comorbidities, such as sleep disturbances, should be dependent on the disease phenotype and the extent of involvement. Even though clinicians should pay close attention to sleep disturbances in all UC patients, we suggest paying more attention to patients with pancolitis and providing more serious management strategies for improving their sleep quality.

Future studies should further investigate this relationship. We also recommend recruiting and comparing patients newly diagnosed with chronic IBD so that the long-term effects of the ailment and treatments can also be taken into account.

## Conclusion

According to our findings, sleep impairment was evident in more than half of our IBD patient pool. Therefore, we suggest screening for sleep disturbances (particularly in UC patients with pancolitis) and their related comorbidities, such as OSA and RLS (especially in patients with elevated CRP levels), in IBD patients in order to enhance their quality of sleep.

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## Ethics

**Ethics Committee Approval:** This cross-sectional study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (approval number: IR.MUMS.MEDICAL.REC.1398.447, date: 30.07.2019)

**Informed Consent:** Informed consent was signed by all participants in this study.

## Authorship Contributions

Concept: M.A., H.V., M.A., Design: A.M., M.A., H.V., H.M-M., M.A., Data Collection or Processing: R.N., H.M-M., S.A., M.R., A.T., Analysis or Interpretation: A.M., S.A., M.R., A.T., K.M., M.A., Literature Search: A.M., Writing: A.M., M.A., K.M., M.A.

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# The Effect of Complex Decongestive Therapy on Sleep Quality and Quality of Life in Patients with Secondary Lymphedema After Cancer Surgery

## Kanser Cerrahisi Sonrası Sekonder Lenfödemli Hastalarda Kompleks Dekonjestif Tedavinin Uyku Kalitesi ve Yaşam Kalitesi Üzerine Etkisi

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### Abstract

**Objective:** It has been frequently observed that patients with lymphedema experience problems that impair quality of life (QoL), such as pain, edema and sleep disturbances. The positive effects of complex decongestive therapy (CDT) on pain, extremity volume and QoL have been reported in the literature. The aim of this study was to investigate the effects on sleep quality, pain, extremity volume, and QoL of the first phase of CDT applied to patients who developed lymphedema after cancer surgery.

**Materials and Methods:** The study included a total of 48 female patients with unilateral lymphedema (23 breast cancer and 25 urogynaecological cancer) who developed upper or lower extremity lymphedema after cancer surgery. The patients were questioned about QoL, pain, extremity volume, medical history, and demographic data before starting treatment. Then CDT was applied five days a week for three weeks, as a total of 15 sessions, after which the patients were re-evaluated. Pain severity was evaluated using a visual analog scale, sleep quality with the Pittsburgh sleep quality index, QoL with the lymphedema QoL questionnaire, and extremity volume was measured and calculated using the Frustum formula.

**Results:** A significant improvement was detected in pain ( $p<0.001$ ), extremity volume ( $p=0.015$ ), sleep quality ( $p<0.001$ ) and overall QoL score ( $p=0.012$ ) in the group that developed lymphedema in the upper extremity after treatment. A significant improvement was achieved in pain ( $p<0.001$ ), extremity volume ( $p<0.001$ ), sleep quality ( $p<0.001$ ) and overall QoL score ( $p<0.001$ ) in the group that developed lymphedema in the lower extremity.

**Conclusion:** This study is the first to demonstrate the effects of CDT on sleep quality while confirming its therapeutic effects on pain, extremity volume and QoL in patients who developed lymphedema after cancer surgery. When treating sleep disturbances in lymphedema patients, it is important to consider the therapeutic benefits of CDT on sleep quality.

**Keywords:** Lymphedema, complex decongestive therapy, sleep, quality of life

### Öz

**Amaç:** Lenfödem hastalarında ağrı, ödem, uyku bozuklukları gibi hastanın yaşam kalitesini (QoL) bozan sorunlar sıklıkla görülmektedir. Daha önce kompleks dekonjestif tedavinin (KDT) ağrı, ekstremitte hacmi ve QoL üzerindeki olumlu etkileri zaten bildirilmişti. Bu çalışmanın amacı, kanser cerrahisi sonrası lenfödem gelişen hastalara uygulanan KDT'nin birinci fazının ağrı, ekstremitte hacmi, QoL gibi diğer semptomların yanı sıra uyku kalitesi üzerine etkilerini araştırmaktır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Çalışmaya, kanser ameliyatı sonrasında üst veya alt ekstremitte lenfödem gelişen toplam 48 kadın hasta (23 meme kanseri ve 25 ürojenekolojik kanser) dahil edildi. Hastalar tedaviye başlamadan önce QoL, ağrı, ekstremitte hacmi, tıbbi geçmiş ve demografik veriler açısından sorgulandı. Ardından, üç hafta boyunca haftada beş gün olmak üzere toplam 15 seans KDT uygulandı ve hastalar yeniden değerlendirildi. Ağrı şiddeti görsel analog skala ile, uyku kalitesi Pittsburgh uyku kalitesi indeksi ile, yaşam kalitesi lenfödem QoL anketi ile değerlendirildi ve ekstremitte hacmi Frustum formülü kullanılarak ölçüldü ve hesaplandı.

**Bulgular:** Tedavi sonrasında üst ekstremitesinde lenfödem gelişen grubun ağrı ( $p<0.001$ ), ekstremitte hacmi ( $p=0.015$ ), uyku kalitesi ( $p<0.001$ ) ve genel QoL skorunda ( $p=0.012$ ) anlamlı iyileşme saptandı. Bununla beraber alt ekstremitesinde lenfödem gelişen grubun ağrı ( $p<0.001$ ), ekstremitte hacmi ( $p<0.001$ ), uyku kalitesi ( $p<0.001$ ) ve genel QoL skorunda da ( $p<0.001$ ) anlamlı iyileşme elde edildi.

**Sonuç:** Bu çalışma, kanser cerrahisi sonrası lenfödem gelişen hastalarda KDT'nin uyku kalitesi üzerindeki etkilerini ortaya koyan ve ağrı, ekstremitte hacmi ve QoL üzerindeki terapötik etkilerini doğrulayan ilk çalışmadır. Lenfödem hastalarında uyku bozukluklarının tedavi sürecinde KDT'nin uyku kalitesi üzerindeki terapötik faydalarının dikkate alınması önemlidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Lenfödem, kompleks dekonjestif terapi, uyku, yaşam kalitesi

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## Introduction

With the advances made in diagnosis and treatment methods, approximately 70% of cancer patients can now live for five years or more after diagnosis.<sup>1</sup> After the primary treatment of cancer is completed, patients face long-term problems due to the disease itself or treatment attempts. The main problems experienced are pain, fatigue, psychological problems, and sleep disorders.<sup>2,3</sup> Sleep disturbance is quite common in cancer patients and has serious adverse effects<sup>4,5</sup>, leading to deterioration of the general health status and a decrease in the quality of life (QoL). Insomnia, sleep-related respiratory disorders, and obstructive sleep apnea syndrome are the most common sleep disorders in cancer patients.

The incidence of cancer-related insomnia is almost three times that seen in the general population.<sup>4,5</sup> According to the literature, the incidence of sleep disorders is 9-33% in the general population, while it ranges from 30-93.1% in cancer patients. It has been reported that 63% of women with metastatic breast cancer have sleep disorders and 37% use sleeping pills.<sup>6</sup> Cancer symptoms and problems related to cancer treatment also contribute to sleep disturbance. Shoulder-arm pain and limitation of movement after breast cancer have been found to be associated with sleep disturbance, causing sleep disorders, fatigue, excessive daytime sleepiness and a decrease in the functions of daily living activities. In addition, it is associated with pain, depression, anxiety, and a decrease in QoL.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to comprehensively evaluate cancer patients in terms of sleep disorders and sleep quality.

Lymphedema, a chronic and progressive disorder encountered after cancer surgery that develops due to impaired lymphatic drainage, is one of the problems that negatively affect the sleep quality of patients and is thought to contribute to the development of sleep disorders.<sup>8-11</sup> In developed countries, the most common cause of lymphedema is cancer surgery. Cancer-associated lymphedema is common, especially in some specific cancer types. After breast cancer surgery, lymphedema can be seen in the upper extremities, in the lower extremities in genitourinary and gynecological cancers, and in the upper or lower extremities depending on the localization of the tumor in melanoma.<sup>12</sup> Lymphedema in the upper and lower extremities following cancer treatment can develop for a variety of reasons, including infection, inactivity, and the use of chemotherapy or radiation therapy following surgery.<sup>13,14</sup> If lymphedema is not completely cured it can seriously impair the physical and mental health and QoL of patients. Swelling and pain in the affected extremity cause a decrease in mobility and activities of daily living. The disproportion in body shape can lead to deterioration in body image and psychological problems such as depression and anxiety.<sup>15</sup> In advanced stages of cancer-associated lymphedema, the sleep quality and QoL of patients are more severely impaired.<sup>10</sup>

Complex decongestive therapy (CDT) is currently accepted as the gold standard in the treatment of lymphedema.<sup>16</sup> It consists of two phases: the first phase of CDT includes manual lymphatic drainage (MLD), skin care, compression therapy and

exercises performed by a therapist, while the second phase of CDT includes self-lymphatic massage, exercises, and the use of a compression garment, which the patient continues in daily life after the first phase is completed. It has been reported that CDT has positive effects on mobility and balance in patients who develop lymphedema after cancer surgery. It has also been shown to improve extremity functions, independence in activities of daily living, and QoL.<sup>16,17</sup> However, from a scan of the relevant literature, only 1 case control study was found.<sup>18</sup> The aim of this study was to investigate the effects on sleep quality and QoL of the first phase of CDT applied to patients who developed extremity lymphedema after cancer surgery.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Design

This cohort study was conducted in Ankara Bilkent City Hospital-Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital. Approval for the study was granted by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Ankara City Hospital (decision number: E2-21-505, date: 18.05.2021) and the study was conducted within the framework of the Helsinki Declaration principles. All participants provided written informed consent prior to study entry.

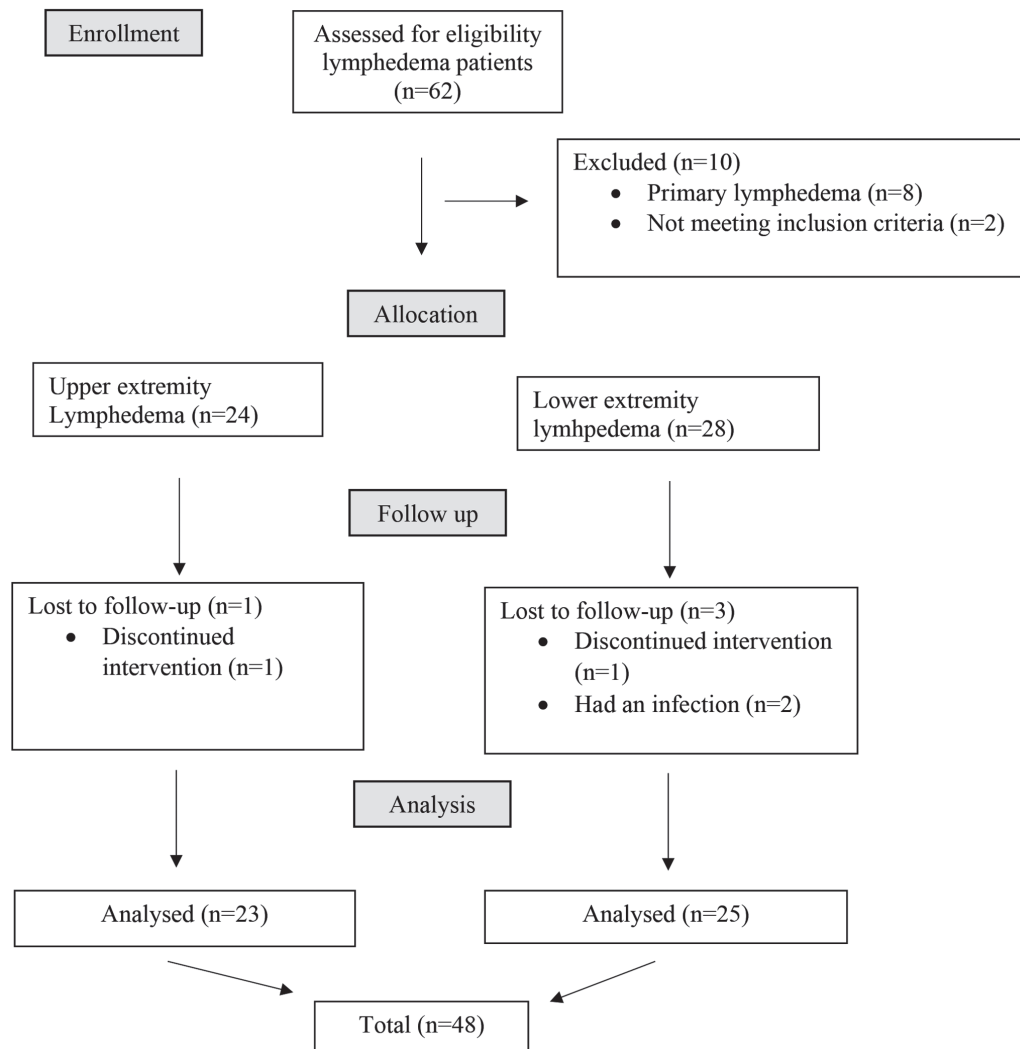
### Participants

A total of 62 patients who developed unilateral lymphedema in the lower or upper extremities after cancer surgery were contacted and invited to participate in the study. Of these, 14 were excluded from the study for various reasons (8 patients had primary lymphedema, 2 did not meet the inclusion criteria, 2 discontinued the intervention, and 1 had an infection). The consolidated standards of reporting trails flow diagram is shown in Figure 1. No adverse events were reported during the training sessions. The study inclusion criteria were defined as age 18-65 years, the development of unilateral lymphedema in the lower or upper extremities after cancer surgery, and voluntary participation in the study. The study exclusion criteria were defined as unwillingness to participate in the study, the development of lymphedema due to primary causes, the presence of bilateral lymphedema, active infection, or mental or cognitive disorders, inability to communicate and cooperate, or the use of sleeping pills or antidepressants.

At stage 0, the lymph system is at a level that can handle lymph flow and no swelling is observed in the extremities. Therefore, stage 0 patients were also excluded from the study.

### Outcome Measures

Before starting treatment, the patients were evaluated in respect of QoL, pain, extremity volume, medical history, and demographic data. A total of 15 sessions of CDT were then applied five days a week for three weeks, after which the patients were re-evaluated. Demographic information, physical features, and medical history were recorded using a standardized questionnaire. The lymphedema stages were determined according to the International Society of Lymphology criteria by a specialist doctor.<sup>19</sup> All procedures were carried out by the same consultant.



**Figure 1.** CONSORT flow diagram  
CONSORT: Consolidated standards of reporting trials

### Pain

Resting pain was evaluated using a visual analogue scale (VAS). The VAS is a straight line 10 centimetres (cm) long with no numbers. The patients were informed that the beginning of the line indicates no pain and the end of the line indicates unbearable pain, and were then instructed to mark the line at the point reflecting the level of pain felt in the affected extremity. The marked value was then measured with a tape measure and recorded in cm.<sup>20</sup>

### Extremity Volume

The Frustum formula  $[V = (h \times [R1^2 + R1.R2 + R2^2]) / (12 \times \pi)]$  was used to calculate the volume of the affected extremity. Starting from the ulna/malleolus of the affected extremity, measurements were made with a tape measure up to the axilla/groin at 4 cm intervals. The extremity volume was calculated by entering the measured values into the formula and recorded in cm<sup>3</sup>.<sup>21</sup>

### Sleep Quality

Sleep quality was assessed using the Pittsburgh sleep quality index. This scale consists of 24 questions, the first 19 of which are answered by the subject, and the last 5 by the bed partner, but the answers given by the bed partner are not included in the calculation. Each question is scored from 0 (no distress) to 3 (severe distress), under 7 sub-headings, providing a total score in the range of 0 to 21. A total score of ≤6 is evaluated as good sleep.<sup>22</sup>

### QoL

The lymphedema QoL questionnaire has a separate form for the lower and upper extremities, each of which has sub-headings of function, appearance, physical symptoms, and emotional state. The first 20 questions are scored from 1 (not at all) to 4 (a lot) points, and the last question evaluating the general QoL is scored between 0 and 10. The score for each sub-parameter is calculated according to the arithmetic mean, with higher scores indicating a poor QoL.<sup>23</sup>

## Intervention

After the initial evaluation of the patients, the first phase of CDT was administered by a professional and experienced lymphoedema therapist for 3 weeks/5 days a week (15 sessions). This phase consists of MLD, skin care, compression therapy and exercises. MLD was applied first to the neck and then to the abdominal region. Lymphatic anastomoses at dorsal and ventral sides of the body were treated and MLD was performed on the affected extremity. Skin care was applied after the MLD, and the extremity was moisturised with a neutral pH water-based moisturizer. A compression bandage was applied after skin care. The compression bandage consisted of a stockinette dressing, finger bandages, cotton, sponges, and short stretch bandaging applied from the toes to the groin. Skin care and remedial exercises were applied, respectively.<sup>11</sup>

## Statistical Analysis

Data obtained in the study were analyzed statistically using IBM SPSS Statistics vn. 24.0 software (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 24.0. Armonk, NY, USA). Conformity of the variables to normal distribution was examined with analytical (Shapiro-Wilk test) and visual (histogram and probability graphs) methods. The paired samples t-test and the Wilcoxon signed-rank test were used to compare the mean values. A value of  $p < 0.05$  was accepted as statistically significant.

## Results

A total of 48 female patients completed the study, of which 23 had upper extremity lymphedema following breast cancer

surgery and 25 had lower extremity lymphedema following urogynaecological cancer surgery.

The demographic characteristics of the patients and comorbidities are summarized in Table 1. Lymphedema history following surgery and other cancer treatments are shown in Table 2. The majority of the patients (52.1%) were in stage 2 (Table 2).

A significant improvement was detected in pain ( $p < 0.001$ ), extremity volume ( $p = 0.015$ ), sleep quality ( $p < 0.001$ ) and overall QoL score ( $p = 0.012$ ) in the group that developed lymphedema in the upper extremity after treatment. A significant improvement was achieved in pain ( $p < 0.001$ ), extremity volume ( $p < 0.001$ ), sleep quality ( $p < 0.001$ ) and overall QoL score ( $p < 0.001$ ) in the group that developed lymphedema in the lower extremity (Tables 3 and 4).

## Discussion

This prospective cohort study is the first to have demonstrated that CDT applied 5 days a week for 3 weeks (15 sessions) was effective in improving sleep quality in patients who developed lymphedema in upper or lower extremities after cancer surgery, while confirming its therapeutic effects on pain, extremity volume and QoL.

CDT is known to be the gold standard in the treatment of lymphedema, and previous studies have shown its positive effects on QoL and that it reduces pain and extremity volume.<sup>19</sup> In a study by Abakay et al.<sup>24</sup>, a total of 20 sessions of CDT were applied to 20 patients who developed secondary lymphedema in the lower extremities. Extremity volume and

**Table 1. Demographic characteristics and medical history of the patients**

Characteristics		Upper extremity (n=23)	Lower extremity (n=25)	Total (n=48)
Age (year, mean $\pm$ SD)		50.43 $\pm$ 9.94	50.04 $\pm$ 12.78	50.22 $\pm$ 11.39
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> , mean $\pm$ SD)		32.31 $\pm$ 5.64	35.68 $\pm$ 6.12	34.06 $\pm$ 6.08
Education, n (%)	Illiterate	1 (4.3%)	2 (8%)	3 (6.3%)
	Primary school	10 (43.5%)	8 (32%)	18 (37.5%)
	High school	8 (34.8%)	10 (40%)	18 (37.5%)
	University	4 (17.4%)	5 (20%)	9 (18.7%)
Medical history, n (%)	<b>1 Medical history</b>	7 (30.3%)	11 (44%)	18 (37.5%)
	Diabetes mellitus	1 (4.3%)	1 (4%)	2 (4.2%)
	Hypertension	3 (13%)	7 (28%)	10 (20.8%)
	Hypothyroid	3 (13%)	3 (12%)	6 (12.5%)
	<b>2 Medical history</b>	1 (4.3%)	2 (8%)	3 (6.3%)
	Hypertension + hypothyroid	0	2 (8%)	2 (4.2%)
	Hypertension + diabetes mellitus	1 (4.3%)	0	1 (2.1%)
	<b>3 Medical history</b>	15 (65.2%)	12 (48%)	27 (56.3%)
	Hypertension + diabetes mellitus + hypothyroid	1 (4.3%)	0	1 (2.1%)
	None	14 (60.9%)	12 (48%)	26 (54.2%)

SD: Standard deviation, BMI: Body mass index

**Table 2. Postoperative lymphedema history**

		Upper extremity (n=23)	Lower extremity (n=25)	Total (n=48)
Postoperative time (year, mean $\pm$ SD)		4.39 $\pm$ 4.15	4.12 $\pm$ 2.71	4.25 $\pm$ 3.44
Lymphedema duration (months, mean $\pm$ SD)		37.56 $\pm$ 36.19	54.24 $\pm$ 44.34	46.25 $\pm$ 41.08
Chemotherapy, n (%)		12.69 $\pm$ 8.47	10.80 $\pm$ 5.31	11.70 $\pm$ 6.99
Radiotherapy, n (%)		21.34 $\pm$ 9.49	23.36 $\pm$ 7.68	22.39 $\pm$ 8.56
Affected side, n (%)	Right	11 (47.8%)	9 (36%)	20 (41.7%)
	Left	12 (52.2%)	16 (64%)	28 (58.3%)
Lymphedema stage, n (%)	1	8 (34.8%)	4 (16%)	12 (25%)
	2	14 (60.9%)	11 (44%)	25 (52.1%)
	3	1 (4.3%)	10 (40%)	11 (22.9%)

SD: Standard deviation

**Table 3. Pain, extremity volume and sleep quality results**

	Upper extremity		Lower extremity		Total	
	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment
Pain (mean $\pm$ SD)	5 $\pm$ 1.88	3.06 $\pm$ 1.03	4.19 $\pm$ 2.25	3.06 $\pm$ 1.92	4.58 $\pm$ 2.10	3.06 $\pm$ 1.54
	t=6.592; p<0.001*		t=7.801; p<0.001*		t=9.008; p<0.001*	
Sleep quality median; (min-max)	7; (5-16)	5; (2-13)	8; (4-16)	5; (3-13)	8; (4-16)	5; (2-13)
	Z=-3.832; p<0.001*		Z=-4.308; p<0.001*		Z=-5.729; p<0.001*	
Extremity volume (mL) median; (min-max)	2911; (2027-8704)	2880; (2104-8693)	14823; (7978-29506)	10977; (7740-22221)	8386; (2027-29506)	7976.50; (2104-22221)
	Z=2.626; p=0.015*		Z=-4.373; p<0.001*		Z=-5.518; p<0.001*	

t: Paired samples t-test, Z: Wilcoxon test

\*p<0.05

SD: Standard deviation, min-max: Minimum-maximum

**Table 4. Quality of life results**

	Upper extremity		Lower extremity		Total	
	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment
Function median; (min-max)	2.10 (1-3.20)	1.37 (1-3.70)	2.20 (1.38-4)	2 (1-3)	2.11 (1-4)	1.50 (1-3.70)
	Z=-2.714; p=0.007*		Z=-3.381; p<0.001*		Z=-4.187; p<0.001*	
Appearance median; (min-max)	2; (1.20-4)	1.80; (1-3.80)	2.70; (1.80-4)	2.28; (1-4.80)	2.46; (1.20-4)	2.10; (1-4.80)
	Z=2.090; p=0.037*		Z=2.160; p=0.041*		Z=-2.660; p<0.001*	
Physical symptoms (mean $\pm$ SD)	2.41 $\pm$ 0.92	1.96 $\pm$ 0.96	2.60 $\pm$ 0.63	1.91 $\pm$ 0.54	2.51 $\pm$ 0.78	1.93 $\pm$ 0.76
	t=2.560; p=0.018*		t=8.422; p<0.001*		t=-6.025; p<0.001*	
Emotional status median; (min-max)	2.33; (1.33-3.66)	1.66; (1-3.50)	2; (1-3.50)	1.60; (1-2.60)	2.13; (1-3.66)	1.66; (1-3.50)
	Z=-2.801; p=0.005*		Z=-3.209; p=0.001*		Z=-4.159; p<0.001*	
Overall score median; (min-max)	6; (4-8)	7; (5-8)	6; (2-8)	7; (5-9)	6; (2-8)	7; (5-9)
	Z=-2.501; p=0.012*		Z=-3.666; p<0.001*		Z=-4.421; p<0.001*	

t: Paired samples t-test, Z: Wilcoxon test

\*p<0.05

SD: Standard deviation, min-max: Minimum-maximum

QoL improved after CDT.<sup>24</sup> Sezgin Ozcan et al.<sup>25</sup> applied CDT treatment to patients who developed lymphedema after breast cancer surgery for 5 days a week for 3 weeks, and at the end of 3 weeks, significant reductions in extremity volume, pain and heaviness sensation, and significant improvements in QoL were obtained.<sup>25</sup> In another study, it was found that

CDT applied for 5 days a week for 4 weeks to patients who developed lymphedema after breast cancer surgery resulted in a decrease in extremity volume, and a positive improvement in the function and general health sub-parameters of QoL.<sup>26</sup> The results of this study have confirmed the current knowledge that CDT is effective on pain, extremity volume, and QoL in

patients who developed lymphedema in both the upper or lower extremities.

There has been shown to be a 10% decrease in the joint range of motion of patients due to lymphedema developing after cancer surgery. The development of lymphedema in the affected arm/leg together with the decreased range of motion may cause a decrease in the functional levels of the patients, which can explain the deterioration in the QoL.<sup>27</sup>

Sleep problems can be seen intensely and for a long time in cancer patients. While sleep problems can be seen in approximately 30% of newly diagnosed patients, this rate increases at advanced stages of cancer.<sup>28</sup> In addition, the development of lymphedema in patients after cancer surgery may adversely affect the sleep. Lymphedema symptoms such as an increase in volume, pain, numbness, and tingling in the extremity are among the factors that negatively affect sleep.<sup>29</sup> A previous study reported that obstructive sleep apnea was determined in 74% of 43 lymphedema patients admitted for CDT. Especially in patients with lower extremity lymphedema, sleep problems are more common, which has been attributed to the correlation between lower extremity volume and the prevalence of obstructive sleep apnea.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the increase in peripheral edema is among the other factors thought to cause obstructive sleep apnea by reducing the upper airway and increasing the upper airway resistance.<sup>30</sup> Roux et al.<sup>9</sup> applied 12 sessions of CDT to patients who developed obstructive sleep apnea due to lymphedema, and reported no significant change in sleep apnea following the treatment. This was thought to be due to the masking of the effect of CDT by obstructive sleep apnea during treatment.<sup>9</sup> In a case study by Janavlekar et al.<sup>18</sup>, CDT was applied to a patient who developed lymphedema in the upper extremity after breast cancer surgery. As a result of the treatment, it was concluded that CDT played an important role in reducing lymphedema and improving sleep quality and QoL in metastatic breast cancer patients.<sup>18</sup>

The results of the current study showed a significant improvement in the sleep quality of patients with upper or lower extremity lymphedema. Decreased pain and extremity volume, which are among the factors affecting sleep, may be the reason for this change.

### Study Limitations

The strength of this study was that it is the first in literature to have revealed the efficacy of CDT on sleep quality in patients who developed lymphedema. However, the results of this study only reflect phase 1 of CDT. There is a need for further studies with long-term follow-up, including the second phase of CDT. Moreover, due to the small number of participants, the patients could not be classified according to clinical stages.

### Conclusion

Sleep is essential for healing and QoL, especially for postoperative cancer patients who face numerous physical and environmental obstacles to uninterrupted sleep. As a lack of sleep can result in pain, depression and anxiety, patients who get enough sleep tend to have better moods and experience fewer anxiety

or depressive episodes.<sup>31</sup> The impact of poor sleep quality on outcomes and patient QoL demonstrates the need for new therapeutic options with few side-effects. As a result of this study, it was concluded that CDT, which is known as the gold standard for reducing extremity volume in lymphedema patients, improved sleep quality in patients who developed secondary lymphedema in both upper and lower extremities. It can be suggested that clinicians should consider the efficacy of CDT on sleep quality in the management process of sleep disturbances of lymphedema patients.

### Ethics

**Ethical Approval:** Approval for the study was granted by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Ankara City Hospital (decision number: E2-21-505, date: 18.05.2021) and the study was conducted within the framework of the Helsinki Declaration principles.

**Informed Consent:** All participants provided written informed consent prior to study entry.

### Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: C.Ş.P., M.E.Y., M.D., P.B., Concept: C.Ş.P., M.E.Y., E.E.Ö., M.D., Design: C.Ş.P., M.E.Y., Data Collection or Processing: C.Ş.P., E.E.Ö., M.D., P.B., Analysis or Interpretation: C.Ş.P., M.E.Y., E.E.Ö., Literature Search: C.Ş.P., M.E.Y., Writing: C.Ş.P., M.E.Y., E.E.Ö., M.D., P.B.

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# Tayside Çocuk Uyku Değerlendirme Formunun Türk Kültürüne Uyarlanması Çalışması

## Adaptation of the Tayside Children's Sleep Questionnaire to Turkish Culture

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### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmada "the Tayside children's sleep questionnaire" ölçeği aracılığıyla "Tayside çocuk uyku değerlendirme formu (TÇUDF)" adı altında açık ve anlaşılır bir Türkçe çevirisi yapılması, dil eşdeğerliğinin sağlanması, Türk kültürüne uygun hale getirilmesi, iç tutarlılık puanının, geçerliliğinin güvenilirliğinin, değerlendirme formunun kullanıma uygun olması amaçlanmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Araştırmanın verileri 294 annenin katılımıyla 01.08.2022-31.09.2022 tarihleri aralığında online veri toplama yöntemi uygulanarak elde edilmiştir. Ebeveynlere "sosyodemografik bilgi formu" ve "TÇUDF" uygulanmıştır.

**Bulgular:** TÇUDF'nin dilsel eşdeğerlik uygunluğu için Spearman-Brown korelasyonu yapılmış  $p<0,50$  ve  $r=0,764$  ile yüksek düzeyde istatistiksel anlamlı ilişki bulunmuştur. Madde toplam korelasyonu olarak 0,41 ve 0,63 arasında ( $r>0,30$ ) ile yeterli korelasyon katsayısının sağlandığı tespit edilmiştir. Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık kat sayısı 0,807 ( $>0,7$ ) ile ölçeğin iyi derecede güvenilir olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Faktör analizi sonucunda birinci faktörün faktör yüklerinin, ( $>0,45$ ), ikinci faktörün faktör yüklerinin, ( $>0,45$ ) olduğu için seçimin iyi bir ölçü olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Madde faktör yükleri incelenmiş ve faktör yüklerinin, ( $>0,30$ ) olduğu için kabul edilebilir düzeyde olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Madde ayırt ediciliğine ilişkin yapılan bağımsız örneklem t-testi sonucunda tüm maddelerin t değerlerinin anlamlı ( $p<0,001$ ) olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

**Sonuç:** Çalışmamızda elde edilen sonuçlar ölçeği aracılığıyla yer alan tüm maddelerin geçerliklerinin yüksek olduğunu ve uyku bozukluklarını ayırt ettiğini göstermektedir. Türk kültürüne uyarlama çalışmasına ilişkin veriler ölçeği aracılığıyla Türk dili ve kültürüne uygun, uygulanabilir bir ölçeği aracı olduğunu göstermektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Uyku bozuklukları, ölçek uyarlama, erken çocukluk dönemi, uyku davranışları

### Abstract

**Objective:** In this study, a clear Turkish translation of "the Tayside children's sleep questionnaire", the original language of which was English, under the name of "the Tayside child sleep assessment form", made it suitable for Turkish culture, internal consistency score, validity reliability and the evaluation form is intended to be suitable for use.

**Materials and Methods:** The data of the study were obtained by applying the online data collection method between 01.08.2022-31.09.2022 with the participation of 294 mothers. "Sociodemographic information form" and "Tayside child sleep evaluation form" were applied to the parents.

**Results:** Spearman-Brown correlation was made for the linguistic equivalence suitability of the Tayside child sleep evaluation form and a high statistically significant correlation was found with  $p<0.50$  and  $r=0.764$ . For item-total correlation, it was determined that a sufficient correlation coefficient was provided between 0.41 and 0.63 ( $r>0.30$ ). The scale was found to be highly reliable, with a Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient of 0.807 ( $>0.7$ ). As a result of the factor analysis, it was determined that selection was a good measure because the factor loads of the first factor were ( $>0.45$ ), and the factor loads of the second factor were ( $>0.45$ ). Item factor loads were examined, and it was determined that the factor loads were at an acceptable level because they were ( $>0.30$ ). As a result of the independent samples t-test for item discrimination, it was determined that the t values of all items were significant ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** The results obtained in our study show that the validity of all the information in the screening tool was high and that it could measure sleep disturbance. This shows that a data transfer tool dealing with adaptations from Turkish is a viable transfer tool suitable for Turkish and text.

**Keywords:** Sleep disorders, scale adaptation, early childhood, sleep behaviors

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## Giriş

Bütün insanlar için yaşamın temel ihtiyacı olan uyku özellikle bebeklik ve okul öncesi dönemde çok daha büyük bir öneme sahiptir. Bu dönemlerde uyku süresi uyanıklık süresinden daha fazladır ve gelişimin bu kritik dönemlerinde uykunun beyin ve beden gelişimine olan önemli etkisi gelişim süreçlerini de doğrudan etkilemektedir.<sup>1</sup> Uyku bebekler ve çocuklar için yaşamsal olarak gerekli enerjinin korunması, sinir sistemini geliştirmesi ve onarması için kritik bir süreç olduğundan bebekler ve çocukların bilişsel süreçlerini, büyümelerini, davranışsal durumlarını da doğrudan etkilemektedir.<sup>2</sup> Yeterli sürede ve sağlıklı bir şekilde uyumanın çocuklarda öğrenme ve hafıza, okul başarısı, sosyal uyum süreçleri, fiziksel gelişim ve fiziksel sağlıklarını olumlu yönde etkilediği araştırmalarla belirlenmiştir.<sup>3</sup> Uyku, bebeklerin ve çocukların sağlıklı büyümeleri ve gelişimlerinin olumlu bir süreç izlemesi için önemli olan faktörlerden bir tanesidir. Farkına varılmayan, tedavi edilmeyen uyku bozuklukları, bebekler ve çocuklarda uzun süre devam edebilmekte ve bu nedenle bu uyku bozukluklarının tedavi edilmesi de daha uzun bir zaman almaktadır. Ayrıca bu uyku sorunları bebeklerin ve çocukların sağlıklarını ve gelişim süreçlerini de olumsuz etkileyebilmektedir.<sup>4</sup> Uyku bozuklukları her yaş grubunda görülebilen önemli bir sağlık sorunu olarak görülmektedir. Özellikle yaşamın erken yıllarında görülen uyku bozukluklarındaki artış dikkat çekmektedir.<sup>5</sup> Bebeklik ve çocukluk döneminde görülen uyku bozuklukları rutin sağlık değerlendirmelerinde çoğu zaman tespit edilemediği için çocuklarıyla bütün bir günü birlikte geçiren ebeveynlerin bu problem ile ilgili uzmanlara verdiği bilgilerle daha çok ortaya çıkmaktadır.<sup>6</sup> Çocuklarda uyku bozukluklarına yönelik yapılan çalışmalarda çocukların %30-50'sinde uyku bozukluğu olduğu ancak bu çocukların yalnızca %4'ünün tanılabildiği bilinmektedir. Uyku bozukluğu olan ve tanı alan çocukların yüzdeleri arasındaki büyük fark uyku bozukluklarının erken süreçte farkına varma ve tanılmasının önemine işaret etmektedir. Bu erken farkındalık ve tanılama için de uyku ve uyku bozuklukları üzerine geliştirilmiş ölçme araçları sürece yardımcı olabilmektedir.<sup>7</sup> Bu nedenlerden dolayı bebeklerde ve çocuklarda uyku bozukluklarının tespit edilmesinde tarama amaçlı olarak, uzmanlar tarafından kısa sürede etkili değerlendirme sonuçları alınabilecek ölçme araçları kullanılmaktadır.<sup>6</sup>

Uykunun kalitesi ve uyku bozuklukları ile ilgili çocuklara yönelik Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlanması yapılmış ölçme araçları için literatür araştırması yapıldığında; uyku bozukluklarının değerlendirilmesinde nesnel ölçümlerin yanı sıra ölçeklerden de yararlanılmaktadır. Bunlardan Chervin ve ark.'nın<sup>8</sup> uykuda solunum sorunlarını değerlendirmek üzere geliştirdiği "*pediatric sleep questionnaire*", "çocuklarda uyku ölçeği" olarak Öner ve ark.<sup>9</sup> tarafından 2009 yılında Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlanmıştır. Owens ve ark.'nın<sup>10</sup> 4-10 yaş aralığındaki çocukların uyku alışkanlıkları ve uyku ile ilişkili sorunlarını değerlendirmek üzere geliştirdiği "*children's sleep habits questionnaire*", "çocuk uyku alışkanlıkları anketi" (ÇUAA) olarak Fiş ve ark.<sup>4</sup> tarafından 2010 yılında Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlanmıştır. Bruni ve ark.'nın<sup>11</sup> 6-16 yaş aralığındaki sağlıklı ve kronik hastalığı olan çocukların

uyku bozukluklarını değerlendirmek üzere geliştirdiği "*the sleep disturbance scale for children*", "çocuklar için uyku bozukluğu ölçeği" olarak Ağadayı ve ark.<sup>7</sup> tarafından 2020 yılında Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlanmıştır. Literatür taraması yapıldığında uyku ile ilgili değerlendirme araçlarının genellikle yetişkinlerin uyku bozuklukları ve uyku davranışlarını değerlendirmek üzere bir yoğunluk gösterdiği, çocukların uyku davranışları ve çocukların uyku bozukluğu durumlarını değerlendiren Türkiye'de geliştirilmiş ya da yabancı ölçme araçlarından Türkçe'ye uyarlanmış ölçme araçlarının nispeten daha az olduğu görülmektedir. Tayside çocuk uyku değerlendirme formunun (TÇUDF) Türkçe literatürde en benzer ölçme aracı olan ÇUAA ile ortak yönleri dikkate alındığında; iki ölçme aracının da çocukların uykuları ile ilgili alışkanlıklarını ve sorunlarını ölçmeyi hedeflediği, Türkiye dışında ve başka dilde geliştirildiği için Türk kültürüne uyarlandığı, ölçme aracının anne-babalarla uygulandığı, Likert tipte derecelendirildiği, uyku ile ilgili durumları alt ölçeklerle açıkladığı, ölçekten alınan toplam puanın artmasının daha yüksek uyku sorunları ile ilişkilendirildiği görülmektedir. TÇUDF ile ÇUAA'nın farklı yanları dikkate alındığında; ÇUAA'nın ilköğretim öğrencileri grubu (6-10 yaş), TÇUDF'nin 1-5 yaş olmak üzere farklı yaş gruplarını değerlendirdiği, ÇUAA toplam 33 maddeden oluşurken TÇUDF'nin 10 madde ile daha kısa ve uygulaması pratik bir ölçme aracı olduğu, ÇUAA'nın puanlamasında klinik düzeyde anlamsız ve anlamlı olmak üzere iki değerlendirme skalası, TÇUDF'nin puanlanmasında düşük, orta, yüksek olmak üzere üç değerlendirme skalası olduğu görülmektedir. Bu nedenle bu ölçek uyarlama çalışması okul öncesi dönemi çocukların uyku davranışlarının değerlendirilmesi adına literatüre güvenilir ve geçerli bir çeşitlilik sağlayacaktır. Literatürdeki Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlanan ölçme araçları incelendiğinde bir bebeklik ve okul öncesi dönemi kapsayan ölçme araçlarının sınırlı olduğu görülmektedir. Uyarlama ölçekler ve literatürde çeşitli ölçme araçlarının olması bir konu hakkında çalışma planlayan araştırmacıların avantajına olan bir durumdur. TÇUDF Türkçe uyarlaması özellikle uyku ve küçük yaş grubunda uyku (1-5 yaş) çalışmak isteyen araştırmacıların geliştirdikleri ya da uyarladıkları ölçme araçlarında verilerin tutarlılık, geçerlilik ve güvenilirliğini test etmeleri adına yardımcı olarak kullanabilecekleri bir ölçme aracı olacaktır.

## Gereç ve Yöntemler

### Araştırmanın Modeli

Bu araştırma TÇUDF'nin Türkiye'de uygulanabilirliğinin araştırılmasını ve aracın psikometrik özelliklerinin irdelenmesini amaçlamaktadır.

### Araştırmanın Yeri ve Tarihi

Araştırmanın dilsel eş değerlik ve pilot uygulama verileri 27.06.2022-25.07.2022 tarihleri arasında Karabük Merkez ilçesi, Samsun İlkadım ve Atakum ilçeleri, İstanbul Beykoz ilçesinde 1-5 yaş aralığında çocuğu olan annelerle yüz yüze uygulamalı gerçekleştirilmiş olup, araştırmanın asıl uygulama verileri 01.08.2022-31.09.2022 tarihleri aralığında 1-5 yaş aralığında çocuğu olan annelerle online veri toplama yöntemleri ile elde edilmiştir.

### Araştırmının Etik Yönü

Çalışma için, uyarlanacak ölçme aracı olan “the Tayside children’s sleep questionnaire (TCSQ)”yi geliştiren araştırmacılar Frank Sullivan’dan 03.01.2021 tarihinde izin alınmıştır. Sonrasında Karabük Üniversitesi Sosyal ve Beşeri Bilimler Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu’nun 23.02.2022 tarih ve 2022/02-24 sayılı kararı ile etik kurul onayı alınmıştır. Ölçeğin uygulanması için de katılım sağlayan annelerden gerekli onam formu alınmıştır.

### Araştırmının Çalışma Grubu

Araştırmının verileri 2022 yılı Haziran - Ağustos ayları aralığında, Türkçe’ye uyarlanacak olan TÇUDF orijinal formunda olduğu gibi 1-5 yaş aralığındaki ve tipik gelişim gösteren çocuklarla, çocukların annelerinden alınan bilgiler doğrultusunda toplanmıştır. Ölçeğin yapı geçerliliği için çocukların yaşı, cinsiyeti, ailelerin demografik ve sosyoekonomik durumlarının çeşitlilik göstermesine dikkat edilmiştir. Çalışma grubunu oluşturacak kişi sayısı madde sayısının en az 20 katı olacak şekilde toplam 294 kişi olmuştur. Dilsel eşdeğerlik çalışmasına katılan 30 kişi ve çalışmanın pilot uygulamasına katılan 50 kişi, verilerin geçerlik ve güvenilirliğine zarar vermemesi adına bu sayıya dahil edilmemiştir.

Araştırmaya katılan çocukların %26,9’u 5 yaş, %21,8’i 2 yaş, %18,7’si 1 yaş aralığındadır. Çocukların cinsiyetlerinin %53,7 erkek, %46,3 kız olduğu görülmektedir. Annelerin yaşları, %39,8’i 30-34 yaş, %33’ü 20-29 yaş, babaların yaşları, %50’si 35 yaş ve üzeri, %36,7’si 30-34 yaş aralığındadır. Anne eğitim durumu %66’sı üniversite ve lisansüstü, baba eğitim durumu %62,6 üniversite ve lisansüstüdür. Anne çalışma durumu %46,3 çalışmıyor, baba çalışma durumu %79,9 tam zamanlı çalışıyor şeklindedir. Çocukların kardeş sayısı %52,4 kardeşi yok, %31,6 bir kardeşi var, %16 iki ve daha fazla kardeşi var şeklindedir.

### Sosyodemografik Bilgi Formu

Araştırmacı tarafından geliştirilecek olan bu formda çocukların cinsiyet, yaş bilgileriyle birlikte ebeveynlerin cinsiyet, yaş, medeni durum, gelir durumları ve eğitim durumlarına yönelik, çocukların uyku süreçlerine yönelik genel sorular yer almaktadır.

### TÇUDF

F. M. Sullivan ve arkadaşları tarafından 2005 yılında 1-5 yaş aralığındaki çocukların uyku alışkanlıklarını değerlendirmek üzere dörtlü Likert tipte geliştirilmiştir. Değerlendirme formu ikisi puanlamaya dahil olan, bir tanesi puanlamaya dahil olmayan üç alt faktörden ve toplam 10 maddeden oluşmaktadır.<sup>12</sup> Değerlendirme formunun alt faktörleri gece uyanmaları, çocuklarda uyku bozuklukları, ebeveynlerin çocuklarının uyku alışkanlıklarına yönelik algıları olarak ayrılmaktadır. Değerlendirme formunun Cronbach  $\alpha$  katsayısı 0,85’tir. 0,70’in üzerinde  $\alpha$  sayısına sahip olduğu için geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçme aracıdır.<sup>13</sup> Değerlendirme formunda sadece bir ve dokuz arasındaki sorular puanlanır, 10. madde kontrol sorusudur, ebeveynlerin çocuklarının uyku alışkanlıklarına yönelik algılarını değerlendirmektedir ve uygulamada olmasına karşın değerlendirme formuna puan etkisi bulunmamaktadır. Böylece değerlendirme formundan alınabilecek puanlar 0-35 aralığında değişmektedir. Gece uyanmaları alt faktöründen alınabilecek en

yüksek puan 16, uyku bozuklukları alt faktöründen alınabilecek en yüksek puan ise 19’dur. Alınan toplam puanların artması uyku bozukluğu görülme riskinin daha fazla olduğunu ifade etmektedir. Sekiz puan ve üzeri alan çocuklarda uyku bozukluğu olabileceği söylenebilmekte ve 8-12 arası düşük, 13-20 arası orta, 21-35 arası yüksek risk grubu olarak değerlendirilmektedir.<sup>12</sup>

### İstatistiksel Analiz

Araştırma sürecinde ulaşılan verilere yönelik analiz işlemleri, ölçek uyarlama adımlarına uygun bir biçimde gerçekleştirilmiştir. Ulaşılan veriler IBM SPSS (23v) ve IBM AMOS (24v) istatistik paket programlarına işlenmiş ve analizler bu programlar aracılığıyla gerçekleştirilmiştir. Analizlere geçilmeden önce veri setinde kayıp değer, uç değer olup olmadığı tespit edilmiş; ardından verilerin normal dağılım gösterme durumu sorgulanmış ve verilerin normal dağılım gösterdiği saptanmıştır. Ardından ölçeğin güvenirlik analizi Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık katsayısıyla belirlenmiş ve düzeltilmiş madde toplam korelasyonları kontrol edilmiştir. Bu adımdan sonra ölçeğin açıcı faktör analizine (AFA) uygunluğu ve örneklemin yeterli olup olmadığı Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) ve Bartlett küresellik testleri ile belirlenmiş, AFA yapılmış ve oluşan faktörlerin de güvenirlikleri Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık katsayısıyla belirlenmiştir. Madde ayırt edicilikleri ortaya koymak amacıyla oluşturulan alt-üst gruplara t-testi uygulanmıştır. Ölçek geçerliği ile ilgili son adımda ise doğrulayıcı faktör analizi (DFA) yapılmıştır.

### Bulgular

#### Değerlendirme Formunun Uyarlama Aşamalarına İlişkin Bulgular

TÇUDF’nin güvenirliğini sınamak amacıyla yapılan Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık katsayısına ilişkin bulgular Tablo 1’de verilmiştir. Tablo 1’de yer alan TÇUDF’ye ilişkin madde sonuçları incelendiğinde, ölçekte yer alan maddelerin tamamının düzeltilmiş madde toplam korelasyonlarının 0,41 ile 0,63 arasında yer aldığı görülmektedir. Madde toplam korelasyonu için her bir maddenin 0,30’un üstünde olması gerekmektedir.<sup>14</sup> Bu bağlamda ölçekte yer alan maddelerin yeterli seviyede korelasyon katsayısına sahip olduğuna ve ölçekten herhangi bir maddenin çıkarılmamasına karar verilmiştir. Ölçeğin geneli için hesaplanan Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık katsayısı 0,807 tespit edilerek ölçeğin iyi derecede güvenilir olduğu<sup>14</sup> tespit edilmiştir. AFA’ya geçilmeden önce örneklem büyüklüğünün yeterli olup olmadığının saptanması amacıyla KMO testi, veri setinin faktör analizi yapmaya uygun olup olmadığını tespit etmek amacıyla Bartlett küresellik testi yapılmış ve bu analizlere ilişkin bulgular Tablo 2’de verilmiştir.

Tablo 2’de yer alan sonuçlar incelendiğinde KMO değeri 0,82 olduğu, Bartlett küresellik testi sonuçlarının da istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir ( $p < 0,001$ ). KMO değerinin 0,60’tan büyük ve Bartlett küresellik testinin anlamlı olduğuna göre veriler faktör analizi yapmaya elverişlidir.<sup>14</sup>

Tayside çocuk uyku ölçeğinin faktör yapısını ortaya koymak amacıyla faktörleşme tekniği olarak temel bileşenler analizi (*principle compenent analysis*), eksen döndürme tekniği olarak



ise maddelerin faktörlerin altında daha homojen bir biçimde dağıtılması ve kolay yorumlanabilir olmasından dolayı varimax dik döndürme tekniği kullanılarak analiz gerçekleştirilmiştir. Varimax dik döndürme tekniği uygulamada daha sık tercih edilen bir tekniktir.<sup>14</sup> Faktör sayısına karar verilirken özdeğeri 1'den büyük faktörler seçilmiş ve yamaç grafiğinden yararlanılmıştır. Analize ilişkin bulgular Tablo 2'de verilmiştir.

Tablo 2'ye göre faktör analizi sonucunda 10 maddeden oluşan ve dokuz maddesi puanlanan TÇUDF maddeleri iki faktör altında toplanmıştır. Faktör yüklerine göre maddelerin topladıkları faktörlerdeki yüklerin birbirine uzaklığının en az %10 olması gerekmektedir.<sup>14</sup> Bu bağlamda puanlanabilen dokuz maddenin herhangi birinde böyle bir durumla karşılaşılması. Faktör analizi sonuçlarına göre; dokuz, altı, beş ve sekizinci maddeler birinci faktörü oluşturarak varyansın %29,242'sini açıklamakta, üç, dört, iki, yedi ve birinci maddeler ise ikinci faktörü oluşturarak varyansın %27,645'ini açıklamaktadır. İki maddenin açıkladığı toplam varyans %56,886'dır. Birinci faktörü oluşturan maddelerin faktör yükleri 0,73 ile 0,83 arasında, ikinci faktörü oluşturan maddelerin faktör yükleri ise 0,47 ile 0,79 arasında yer almaktadır. Ölçekte yer alan tüm maddelerin faktör yüklerinin 0,45'ten yüksek olması seçim için iyi bir ölçü olacağını göstermektedir.<sup>14</sup>

Faktörler altında toplanan maddeler incelendiğinde faktör bire gece uyanmaları adı, faktör ikiye ise uyku bozuklukları adı verilmiştir.

Tablo 2'ye göre ölçeğin faktör yapısının belirlenmesinin ardından ölçeğin geneline ve ölçeği oluşturan iki faktöre Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık testi uygulanmıştır. Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık katsayısı ölçeğin birinci faktörü için 0,807, ikinci faktörü için ise 0,738 tespit edilmiştir. Ölçme aracının genel Cronbach alfa iç tutarlılık katsayısı da 0,807'dir. Tespit edilen bu değerler hem testin genelinin hem de her iki alt boyutunun iyi derecede güvenilir olduğunu<sup>15</sup> göstermektedir.

AFA ile elde edilen faktör yapısı, DFA ile de sınanmıştır. DFA sonuçlarına göre ki-kare testi/serbestlik derecesi (CMIN/DF) (2,787) indeksinin anlamlı düzeyde ( $p < 0,000$ ) 5'ten küçük tespit

edilmiştir. Uyum iyiliği indeksinin/*goodness of fit index* (0,951) ve düzeltilmiş uyum iyiliği indeksi/*adjusted goodness of fit index* (0,911) indekslerinin 0,90'dan büyük olması iyi uyuma<sup>16</sup>, yaklaşık hataların ortalama karekökü/*root mean square error of approximation* (0,078) indeksinin 0,08'den küçük olması kabul edilebilir uyuma<sup>17</sup>; normlaştırılmış uyum indeksinin/*normed fit index* (0,915) 0,90'dan büyük olması iyi uyuma<sup>16</sup>, karşılaştırmalı uyum indeksinin/*comparative fit index* (0,943) 0,90'dan büyük olması kabul edilebilir uyuma, standartlaştırılmış ortalama hataların karekökü/*standardized root mean squared residual* (0,058) indeksinin 0,08'den küçük olması kabul edilebilir uyuma ulaşıldığını göstermektedir.<sup>18</sup> Bu kapsamda kurulan *path* diyagramı Şekil 1'de, analiz sonuçları ise Tablo 3'te gösterilmiştir. Tablo 4'e göre TÇUDF'de yer alan ve iki faktör altında toplanan tüm maddelere ilişkin yol katsayıları istatistiksel olarak anlamlıdır ( $p < 0,05$ ). Madde faktör yükleri incelendiğinde faktör yüklerinin 0,45 ile 0,82 arasında olduğu görülmektedir. Harrington madde faktör yüklerinin en az 0,30'un üzerinde olması gerektiğini; 0,45 ile 0,54 arasını kabul edilebilir, 0,55 ile 0,62 arasını iyi, 0,63 ile 0,70 arasını çok iyi, 0,71 ve üzerini ise mükemmel olarak nitelendirilebileceğini belirtmiştir. Modelin kabul edilebilir olması için önemli olan bir diğer olan t değerleri incelendiğinde, bu değerlerin 5,574 ile 10,684 arasında değiştiği görülmektedir. t değeri 1,96'yı aştığında 0,05 düzeyinde, 2,56'yı aştığında ise 0,001 düzeyinde anlamlıdır.<sup>19</sup> Uyum iyiliği indeksleri, faktör yükleri, t değerleri ve Şekil 1'deki *path* diyagramı incelendiğinde modelin kabul edilebilir düzeyde olduğu görülmektedir.

TÇUDF maddelerinden alınan toplam puanlar küçükten büyüğe doğru sıralanmış ve ilk %27'lik grup ( $n=80$ ) ile son %27'lik grup arasında manidar farklılık bulunup bulunmadığını tespit etmek amacıyla bağımsız örneklem t-testi uygulanmıştır. Analiz sonuçlarına ilişkin bulgular Tablo 3'te verilmiştir.

Tablo 3 incelendiğinde ölçekte yer alan tüm maddelerin t değerlerinin anlamlı ( $p < 0,001$ ) olduğu görülmektedir. Bu sonuçlara göre ölçekte yer alan tüm maddelerin geçerliklerinin yüksek olduğu, uykuyu başlatma ve sürdürme problemi olan ve olmayan öğrencileri ayırt ettiği tespit edilmiştir.

**Tablo 1. Tayside çocuk uyku değerlendirme formuna ilişkin ilk Cronbach alfa testi sonuçları**

Maddeler	DMTK	MSCA
1) Çocuğunuz uykuya yatağa yattıktan sonra genelde ne kadar sürede dalar?	0,472	0,797
2) Çocuğum isteksiz bir şekilde yatağa gider.	0,410	0,799
3) Çocuğum geceleri uyumakta güçlük çeker (hatta uyurken yanında bir ebeveyninin bulunmasını ister).	0,513	0,787
4) Çocuğum kendi yatağında uyuyamaz.	0,570	0,779
5) Çocuğum geceleri iki veya ikiden fazla kez uykusundan uyanır.	0,575	0,779
6) Çocuğum gece uyandıktan sonra kendi kendine tekrar uykuya dalma konusunda güçlük çeker.	0,633	0,772
7) Çocuğum gecenin bir saatinde ebeveyninin yanına gelerek onun yatağında uyur.	0,414	0,799
8) Çocuğum uykusundan uyanırsa onu rahatlatan bir uyku arkadaşı arar (örneğin pelüş oyuncak) ama uyku arkadaşının yerini alması için bir ebeveyninin varlığına da ihtiyaç duyar.	0,561	0,780
9) Çocuğum gece içmek için bir şeyler ister (emzirme ve biberonla beslenme de dahil).	0,426	0,799
Genel güvenilirlik =0,807		
DMTK: Düzeltilmiş madde toplam korelasyonu, MSCA: Madde silindiğinde Cronbach alfa		



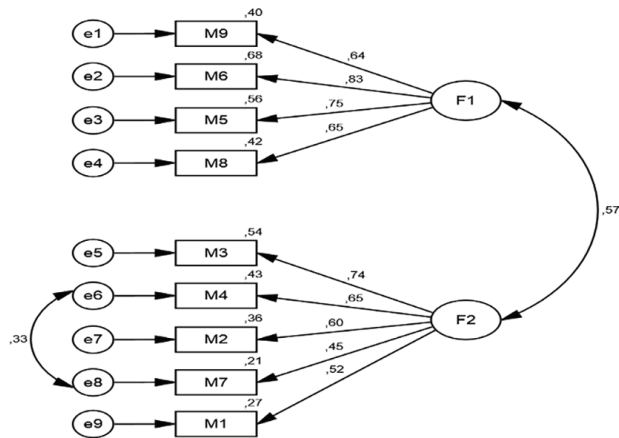
**Tablo 2. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin değeri ve Bartlett küresellik testi ve faktör analizi testi sonuçları**

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin değeri		0,82		
Bartlett küresellik testi		Ki-kare testi değeri	812,718	
		Serbestlik derecesi	36	
		p	0,000*	
Faktörler	Maddeler	Faktör ağırlıkları	Açıklanan varyans	Güvenirlilik
F1	Madde 9	0,830	29,242	0,807
	Madde 6	0,781		
	Madde 5	0,759		
	Madde 8	0,734		
F2	Madde 3	0,790	27,645	0,738
	Madde 4	0,748		
	Madde 2	0,676		
	Madde 7	0,666		
	Madde 1	0,476		
Toplam			56,886	0,807
*p<0,05				

**Tablo 3. Tayside çocuk uyku ölçeğine ilişkin betimsel istatistikler**

Faktör	n	Minimum	Maksimum	$\bar{X}$	SS
Gece uyanmaları	294	0,00	16,00	4,47	4,75
Uyku bozuklukları	294	0,00	19,00	7,45	4,95
Toplam	294	0,00	35,00	11,93	8,19
Grup	n	$\bar{X}$	SS	Minimum	Maksimum
Düşük	65	9,85	1,45	8,00	12,00
Orta	67	16,04	2,17	13,00	20,00
Yüksek	52	25,77	3,68	21,00	35,00

SS: Standart sapma



CMIN=69,687; DF=25; CMIN/DF=2,787; RMSEA=.078; GFI=.951; AGFI=.911; NFI=.915; CFI=.943; SRMR=.058

### Şekil 1. DFA path diyagramı

DFA: Doğrulayıcı faktör analizi, CMIN: Ki-kare testi, DF: Serbestlik derecesi/degree of freedom RMSEA: Yaklaşık hataların ortalama karekökü/root mean square error of approximation, GFI: Uyum iyiliği indeksinin/goodness of fit index, AGFI: Düzeltilmiş uyum iyiliği indeksi/adjusted goodness of fit index, NFI: Normlaştırılmış uyum indeksinin/normed fit index, CFI: Karşılaştırmalı uyum indeksi/comparative fit index, SRMR: Standartlaştırılmış ortalama hataların karekökü/standardized root mean squared residual, M: Ortalama, F: Frekans

**Tablo 4. Doğrulayıcı faktör analizi ve madde ayırt ediciliği sonuçlarına ilişkin değerler**

Madde	Yol	Faktör	$\beta_0$	$\beta_1$	SS	t	p
M9	<---	F1	0,63	0,991	0,110	9,023	p<0,001
M6	<---	F1	0,82	1,134	0,106	10,684	p<0,001
M5	<---	F1	0,74	1,077	0,106	10,196	p<0,001
M8	<---	F1	0,65	1			
M3	<---	F2	0,73	1,79	0,284	6,300	p<0,001
M4	<---	F2	0,65	1,625	0,217	7,490	p<0,001
M2	<---	F2	0,60	1,072	0,180	5,946	p<0,001
M7	<---	F2	0,45	1			
Madde	Kategori	n	$\bar{X}$	SS	t	SS	p
M1	Alt grup	80	1,26	0,522	-9,015	120,952	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	2,38	0,973			
M2	Alt grup	80	1,80	0,701	-8,690	118,129	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	3,29	1,361			
M3	Alt grup	80	1,58	0,854	-17,692	147,049	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	4,38	1,129			
M4	Alt grup	80	1,26	0,497	-17,166	97,861	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	4,16	1,427			
M5	Alt grup	80	1,41	0,567	-15,228	107,720	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	3,84	1,307			
M6	Alt grup	80	1,13	0,333	-14,134	87,308	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	3,48	1,449			
M7	Alt grup	80	1,59	0,924	-10,675	131,497	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	3,69	1,498			
M8	Alt grup	80	1,14	0,347	-14,097	86,279	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	3,74	1,613			
M9	Alt grup	80	1,08	0,309	-10,126	83,402	0,000*
	Üst grup	80	3,20	1,851			
*p<0,001 SS: Standart sapma							

#### Değerlendirme Formunun Uyarlama Sonrasına İlişkin Bulgular

Tayside çocuk uyku ölçek puanlarının ebeveynlerinin çocuklarının uyku problemi olduğunu düşünmeleri değişkenine göre çarpıklık ve basıklık değerleri incelenmiştir. Çocuklarının uyku problemi olduğunu düşünen ebeveynlerin ölçek toplamından aldıkları puanın çarpıklık ve basıklık değerleri sırasıyla -0,237 ve -0,404; çocuklarının uyku probleminin olmadığını düşünenlerin ise 0,723 ve 0,019'dur. Ulaşılan değerlerin -2 ile +2 arasında olmasından dolayı toplam puanların ebeveynlerinin çocuklarının uyku problemi olduğunu düşünmeleri değişkenine göre normal dağılım gösterdiği<sup>20</sup> tespit edilmiş ve t-testi kullanılmasına karar verilmiştir.

Araştırma sorularına geçilmeden önce katılımcıların TÇUDF'den almış oldukları puanlara ilişkin istatistikler incelenmiş ve Tablo 3'te verilmiştir.

Tablo 3'teki veriler incelendiğinde araştırmaya katılan çocukların uyku ölçeğinden almış oldukları puanların aritmetik

ortalaması ( $\bar{X}$ ) 11,93, standart sapması (SS) ise 8,19'dur. Ölçekten alınan maksimum puan 35, minimum puan ise 0'dır. Birinci faktörden almış oldukları puanların aritmetik ortalaması 4,47, SS'si ise 4,75'tir. Birinci faktörden alınan maksimum puan 16, minimum puan ise 0'dır. İkinci faktörden almış oldukları puanların aritmetik ortalaması 7,45, SS'si ise 4,95'tir. İkinci faktörden alınan maksimum puan 19, minimum puan ise 0'dır.

Uykuyu başlatma ve sürdürme problemi olan çocukların ölçekten almış oldukları sürekli puanlar, çocukların uyku bozukluğu düzeylerinin belirlenmesi amacıyla K-ortalamlar kümeleme analizi ile kategorik değişkene dönüştürülmüştür. Analiz sonucunda oluşturulan kümelerle ilişkin bulgular Tablo 3'te verilmiştir. Tablo 3'e bakıldığında K-ortalamlar kümeleme analizi, dört iterasyon sonucunda uyku bozukluğu olan çocukları üç homojen kümeye ayırmıştır. Düşük düzeyde uyku bozukluğuna sahip çocukların (n=65) ortalamaları ( $\bar{X}$ ) 9,85, SS'leri 1,45; orta düzeydeki çocukların (n=67) ortalamaları ( $\bar{X}$ ) 16,04, SS'leri 2,17; yüksek düzeydeki çocukların (n=52)

ortalamaları ( $\bar{X}$ ) 25,77, SS'leri 3,68 olarak belirlenmiştir. Düşük düzeydeki çocukların puanları 8-12 arasında, orta düzeydeki çocukların puanları 13-20 arasında ve yüksek düzeydeki çocukların puanları 21-35 arasında yer almaktadır. K-ortalamar kümeleme analizi kapsamında yapılan ANOVA sonuçlarına göre uyku bozukluğuna sahip çocukların puanları kümelerle göre manidar farklılık göstermektedir ( $F_{2,181}=585,850$ ;  $p<0,001$ ).

## Tartışma

Güvenirlik, bir ölçme aracının bütün değişkenlerin aynı kaldığı varsayılarak yapılan farklı uygulamalarda benzer sonuçlar üretebilme becerisidir. Aynı değişkenlerle yapılan farklı uygulamalarda alınan sonuçların benzerliği yüksek olan ölçme araçları güvenilir olarak adlandırılır.<sup>21</sup> TÇUDF'nin güvenilirliğini değerlendirmek amacıyla Cronbach alfa iç tutarlık katsayısı ve madde toplam korelasyonları değerlendirmeye alınmıştır.

Cronbach alfa katsayısı iç tutarlık değerlendirme yöntemleri arasında en çok kullanılanlardan bir tanesidir. Ölçme araçlarının içerdiği maddelerin homojenliğini ve tutarlılığını değerlendirmektedir. Sıfır ile 1 arasında değer alan Cronbach alfa katsayısının yüksek olması maddelerin birbiriyle tutarlı, aynı özelliklere sahip ve ölçeğin güvenilir olduğunu ifade etmektedir.<sup>22</sup> TÇUDF'nin güvenilirliğinin sınanması için yapılan Cronbach alfa iç tutarlık katsayısı 0,807 olarak tespit edilmiştir. Cronbach alfa katsayısının 0,80 ile 1 aralığında olması ölçeğin iyi derecede güvenilir olduğunu göstermektedir.<sup>15</sup> Buna göre TÇUDF'nin iyi derecede güvenilir olduğu söylenebilmektedir. Ölçeğin orijinal formu olan TCSQ'da Cronbach alfa katsayısı 0,85 olarak belirtilmiştir.<sup>12</sup> TÇUDF ile TCSQ Cronbach alfa puanlarının birbirine yakın olduğu görülmektedir. TÇUDF'nin Cronbach alfa katsayısının iyi derecede güvenilir olması maddelerin birbiriyle tutarlı ve aynı özelliklere sahip olduğunu göstermekte ve ölçeğin güvenilir olduğunu kanıtlamaktadır. Bu nedenle çalışmaya düzeltilmiş madde toplam korelasyonları değerlendirilerek devam edilmiştir. Madde toplam korelasyonu, ölçme aracındaki maddelerin testteki diğer maddelerle ortak özellikleri ölçme durumunu gösteren bir yöntemdir. Bir maddenin madde toplam korelasyonunun yüksekliği, o maddenin ölçme aracındaki diğer maddelerle ortak bir niteliği ölçtüğünü göstermektedir.<sup>23</sup> TÇUDF'de yer alan maddelerin düzeltilmiş madde toplam korelasyonlarının 0,41 ile 0,63 aralığında değiştiği görülmektedir. Madde toplam korelasyonunun sağlanması için her bir maddenin 0,30'un üzerinde olması gerekmektedir.<sup>14</sup> TÇUDF'nin yeterli madde toplam korelasyon katsayısına sahip olduğu ve ölçme aracından madde çıkarılmasına gereksinim olmadığı görülmektedir. Ölçeğin orijinal formu olan TCSQ'da madde toplam korelasyonlarının 0,30 ile 0,72 aralığında değiştiği görülmektedir.<sup>12</sup> TÇUDF ile TCSQ madde toplam korelasyonu puanlarının birbirine yakın olduğu görülmektedir. Bir maddenin diğer maddelerle ortak niteliklerinin ölçütü olarak da isimlendirilebilecek madde toplam korelasyonu TÇUDF'de her bir maddede 0,30'un üzerinde gerçekleşmektedir. Bu da ölçme aracındaki maddelerin birbirleri ile ortak nitelikleri olduğunu ve ölçme aracından madde çıkarılmasına gereksinim olmadığını

ortaya koymaktadır. Cronbach alfa katsayısı ve madde toplam korelasyonlarının gerekli ölçütü sağlaması ölçeğin güvenilir olduğunu göstermektedir.

Geçerlik, ölçülmesi hedeflenen durum, olay, davranışın başka değişkenlerle karıştırılmadan doğru bir şekilde ölçüldüğü ifade etmektedir. Geçerliğin sağlanmadığı durumlarda ölçme aracı aynı zamanda güvenilirliği de sağlamamaktadır.<sup>24</sup> TÇUDF'nin geçerliğinin değerlendirilmesi için kapsam geçerliği, yapı geçerliği ve yapı geçerliğine bağlı olarak AFA, DFA ve madde ayırt ediciliği değerlendirilmiştir.

Kapsam geçerliği ölçme aracının ölçmeyi hedeflediği durum, olay, davranışın çalışma grubu ile ilgili olup olmadığını, ölçme aracının maddelerinin çalışma grubuna uygunluğunun değerlendirilmesidir. Kapsam geçerliğinin sağlanması ölçeğin yapı geçerliğini artırabilmekte ve madde faktör yüklerini olumlu etkileyebilmektedir.<sup>25</sup> Bu çalışmada kapsam geçerliğinin sağlanabilmesi için ilgili çalışma alanından beş uzmandan görüş alınmış ve kapsam geçerliğinin güçlü olması adına uzmanların vermiş olduğu dönütlere yönelik düzenlemeler yapılmıştır. Uzmanların düzeltmeleri yapıldıktan sonra alınmış olan uzman görüşlerinde TÇUDF'nin kapsam geçerliğini sağladığı görüşü alınmış ve çalışmaya devam edilmiştir. Alan uzmanlarının görüşleri TÇUDF'nin ölçmeyi hedeflediği uyku problemlerini ilgili yaş grubu olan 1 ve 5 yaş aralığındaki gruplara uygun bir şekilde uyarlandığı şeklindedir. Bu görüşler doğrultusunda kapsam geçerliği sağlanmış olup çalışmaya diğer geçerlik analizleri ile devam edilmiştir. Yapı geçerliği ölçme aracının teorik yapısı ile uygulama sonuçlarına yönelik yapılan faktör analizlerinin birbiriyle uyumunun sağlanması durumudur. Faktörlerin boyutları içerisinde yer alan maddelerin öngörüldüğü üzere o faktöre ait olduğunun ispatıdır. Faktörlerin isimlendirilmesi ve faktör maddelerinin doğru sınıflandırılması için önemli bir özelliktir.<sup>26</sup> TÇUDF'nin yapı geçerliğinin değerlendirilmesi için AFA, DFA ve madde ayırt ediciliği özellikleri değerlendirilmiştir. Faktör analizleri, değişkenler arasındaki korelasyonu faktör adı verilen yapılar temel yapılar açısından açıklamayı sağlayan bir yöntemdir. AFA ile maddeler arasındaki ilişkiler değerlendirilerek birbiriyle uyum sağlayan ve aynı durumu ölçen maddelerin ortak bir faktör altında toplanmasını sağlamaktadır.<sup>27</sup> TÇUDF'nin DFA'ya örneklem açısından uygunluğunu belirlemek için yapılan KMO testi sonucunda KMO değeri 0,82 olarak bulunmuş ve veri setinin faktör analizine uygunluğunu belirlemek amacıyla yapılan Bartlett küresellik testi sonuçlarının ( $p<0,05$ ) ile istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Bu sonuçlar doğrultusunda elde edilen verilerin faktör analizi yapmaya elverişli olduğu ispat edilmiştir.<sup>14</sup>

TÇUDF'nin faktör yapısını ortaya çıkarmak amacıyla faktörleşme tekniği olarak da bilinen temel bileşenler analizi (*principle compenent analysis*), eksen döndürme tekniği olarak da varimax dik döndürme tekniği kullanılmıştır. Faktör sayısına karar verilirken özdeğeri 1'den büyük faktörler seçilmiş ve yamaç grafiğinden faydalanılmıştır. Yapılan faktör analizi sonucunda 10 maddeden oluşan ve 9 maddesi puanlanan TÇUDF'nin maddeleri fakör yüklerine göre birbirlerine uzaklığının en az %10 olması şartıyla 2 faktör altında toplanmıştır.<sup>14</sup> Birinci faktörü oluşturan maddeler 9, 6, 5 ve 8 olarak varyansın %29,242'sini

açıklarken, ikinci faktörü oluşturan maddeler 3, 4, 2, 7 ve 1 olarak varyansın %27,645'ini açıklamaktadır. Birinci faktörü oluşturan maddelerin faktör yükleri 0,73 ile 0,83 aralığında, ikinci faktörü oluşturan maddelerin faktör yükleri ise 0,47 ile 0,79 aralığında bulunmuştur. Ölçme aracı yer alan tüm maddelerin faktör yüklerinin 0,45'ten yüksek olması nedeniyle seçimde iyi bir ölçü olduğu görülmektedir.<sup>14</sup> TCSQ'da birinci faktörü 1, 2, 3, 5 ve 6, ikinci faktörü 4, 7, 8 ve 9 numaralı maddeler oluşturmaktadır. TÇUDF ile TCSQ faktörlerin içeriğindeki maddelerde değişiklik olduğu görülmektedir. İlgili değişiklikler için ölçme aracını geliştiren isimler olan Frank Sullivan ve Claudia Pagliari ile iletişime geçilmiş ve değişikliğin nedenleri konusunda görüşme yapılmıştır. Yaşanan değişikliklerin Birleşik Krallık ve Türkiye'deki farklı ebeveyn tutumlarından kaynaklı olabileceği görüşü alınmış, faktörlerin maddelerinin değiştirilmesi konusunda ölçme aracını geliştiren uzmanlardan izin alınmıştır. Faktörler altında toplanan maddeler incelendiğinde faktör 1'e gece uyanmaları, faktör 2'ye ise uyku bozuklukları isimleri verilmiştir. TCSQ'da bu faktörler faktör 1 gece uyanmaları ve çocuğun ebeveyn desteğine ihtiyacı, faktör 2 uyku bozuklukları olarak isimlendirilmiştir.<sup>12</sup> Faktör 1'deki çocuğun ebeveyn desteğine ihtiyacı kısmı ölçme aracını geliştiren uzmanlardan izin alınarak çıkarılmıştır. Sonrasında ölçeğin geneline ve ölçeği oluşturan iki faktöre Cronbach alfa iç tutarlık testi uygulanmıştır. Birinci faktör için Cronbach alfa katsayısı 0,807, ikinci faktör için 0,738 olarak tespit edilmiştir. Tespit edilen bu iki değer de alt boyutlar için güvenilir olduğu kanıtlanmıştır.<sup>15</sup> Faktör analizi ile TÇUDF'nin birbiriyle aynı kategoriye ve durumları içeren maddeleri gruplandırılarak alt faktörleri oluşturulmuş ve değerlendirilmiştir. Faktör 1 gece uyanmaları, faktör 2 uyku bozuklukları şeklinde isimlendirilmiştir. TCSQ'da faktör 1 gece uyanmaları ve çocuğun ebeveyn desteğine ihtiyacı olarak isimlendirilmiştir. TÇUDF ile TCSQ arasındaki bu farklılık ile ilgili ölçme aracının orijinal formunu geliştiren uzmanlarla iletişime geçilmiş ve bu değişikliğin İngiliz ve Türk kültürleri arasındaki farklılıklardan ortaya çıktığı görüşü ile faktör 1'in isminin değiştirilmesi için izin alınmıştır. Faktör özdeğerlerinin 1'i geçmesi, faktörlerin Cronbach alfa iç tutarlık katsayılarının yüksek olması ile alt boyutların güvenilir olduğu ve doğru şekilde düzenlendiği anlaşılmıştır.

DFA, AFA'nın bir koludur. AFA ile belirlenen faktörlerin birbirleri ile yeterli düzeyde ilişkisinin varlığını, faktörlerin bağımsızlığını, faktörlerin modeli açıklama durumlarını değerlendirmek için kullanılmaktadır.<sup>28</sup> AFA ile elde edilen faktör yapısı, DFA ile de sınanmıştır. DFA sonuçlarına göre CMIN/DF (2,787) indeksin anlamlı düzeyde ( $p<0,000$ ) 5'ten küçük olduğu tespit edilmiştir. DFA sonuçlarındaki indekslere göre ölçme aracının kabul edilebilir ve iyi uyum arasında bir geçerliğe sahip olduğunu kanıtlamaktadır. DFA sonuçlarında ilişkin değerler incelendiğinde TÇUDF'de yer alan iki faktör altında toplanan tüm maddelere ilişkin yol katsayılarının istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ( $p<0,05$ ) olduğu görülmektedir. Madde faktör yükleri incelendiğinde faktör yüklerinin 0,45 ile 0,82 arasında olduğu görülmektedir. Madde faktör yüklerinden madde 7 ve madde 1 kabul edilebilir değerlere, madde 2'nin iyi değere, madde 4 ve madde 9'un çok iyi değerlere, madde 5, madde 3 ve madde 6'nın mükemmel değerlere sahip olduğu görülmektedir.

Modelin kabul edilebilir olması için önemli bir değer olan t değerleri incelendiğinde, bu değerlerin 5,574 ile 10,684 arasında değiştiği görülmektedir. t değeri 1,96'yı aştığında 0,05 düzeyinde, 2,56'yı aştığında ise 0,001 düzeyinde anlamlıdır.<sup>18</sup> Uyum iyiliği indeksleri, faktör yükleri, t değeri ve *path* diyagramı incelendiğinde modelin kabul edilebilir düzeyde olduğu ve yapı geçerliğini sağlayabildiği görülmektedir.

Bir ölçme aracı maddesinin, yer almış olduğu ölçme aracı ile arasındaki korelasyona madde ayırt ediciliği ismi verilmektedir. Bir maddenin puanları ile ölçme aracının toplam puanları arasındaki korelasyonun karşılaştırılmasıyla elde edilmektedir. Korelasyonun yüksek olması madde ayırt ediciliğinin sağlandığını göstermektedir.<sup>29</sup> TÇUDF'nin madde puanlarının alt-üst gruplara göre farklılaşıp farklılaşmadığını belirlemek üzere yapılan t-testi sonuçlarına göre bütün maddelerin t değerlerinin anlamlı ( $p<0,001$ ) olduğu görülmektedir. Bu sonuçlar TÇUDF'nin yer alan tüm maddelerin geçerliklerinin yüksek olduğunu ve uykuyu başlatma ve sürdürme, uyku bozuklukları olan çocukları ayırt ettiğini kanıtlar niteliktedir.<sup>30</sup>

## Sonuç

TÇUDF'nin Türk dili ve kültürüne uygulanabilir şekilde uyarlaması durumunun incelendiği çalışmada; orijinal dili İngilizce olan TCSQ'dan Türk kültürüne uyarlanan TÇUDF'nin güvenilir ve geçerli bir ölçme aracı olduğu bulunmuştur. Ölçme aracının dilsel eşdeğerliği sağladığı, madde toplam korelasyonlarının yeterli olduğu, iç tutarlığının güvenilir olduğu, faktör analizleri sonucunda ölçüm için iyi düzeyde olduğu, madde ayırt ediciliğinin sağlandığı tüm maddelerin geçerliğinin yüksek ve uyku bozukluklarını ayırt etmeye uygun maddeler olduğu, Türk kültürüne uygun ve Türk çocuklar ile uygulanabilir ve güvenilir bir ölçme aracı olduğu istatistiksel olarak tespit edilmiştir.

TÇUDF'nin Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlanması sonucunda araştırmacılara yönelik verilebilecek öneriler; çocuğun gelişiminde bütün gelişim alanlarının iç içe olduğu, gelişimin bütünsel bir ilişkiyi ele aldığı göz önüne alındığında çocukların farklı gelişim alanlarıyla birlikte uyku bozukluklarının değerlendirilmesi literatüre çeşitlik kazandırabilecektir. Tayside çocuk uyku anketi toplam 10 maddeden oluşan ve uygulaması 2-3 dakika aralığında süren, puanlaması kolay pratik bir ölçme aracıdır. Çocuklarla çalışan uzmanlar Tayside çocuk uyku anketi kullanarak çocuklarda olası uyku bozukluklarını tespit etmek ile ilgili hızlı ve pratik bir ön değerlendirme yapabilirler. Bu çalışmada ölçme aracının Türk dili ve kültürüne revizyonunda uyku bozukluklarını yaş değişkeni olarak aynı yaş grubuyla değerlendiren bir Türkçe ölçme aracı olmadığı için çalışmayı destekleyecek altın standart bir ölçek kullanılamamıştır. Bir-beş yaş arası çocuklarda uyku bozukluklarına yönelik yapılacak başka Türk dili ve kültürüne uyarlama çalışmalarında Tayside çocuk uyku anketinin altın standart olarak kullanılması, uyarlama çalışmasını olumlu destekleyebilecektir.

## Etik

**Etik Kurul Onayı:** Karabük Üniversitesi Sosyal ve Beşeri Bilimler Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu'nun 23.02.2022 tarih ve 2022/02-24 sayılı kararı ile etik kurul onayı alınmıştır.

**Hasta Onayı:** Ölçeğin uygulanması için katılım sağlayan annelerden gerekli onam formu alınmıştır.

#### Yazarlık Katkıları

Konsept: Ş.C., Dizayn: Ş.C., Veri Toplama veya İşleme: N.A., Analiz veya Yorumlama: N.A., Ş.C., Literatür Arama: N.A., Yazan: N.A.

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# Narkolepsi Tip-1 Olgusunda Nadir İzlenen Semptomlar: Hiperseksüalite

## Rarely Observed Symptoms in Narcolepsy Type-1 Case: Hypersexuality

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### Öz

Narkolepsi tip-1; nadir izlenen, tedavi edilmediğinde yaşam kalitesi üzerinde negatif etkileri olan kronik uyku bozukluğudur. Gündüz aşırı uykululuk (GAU), katapleksi, uyku paralizisi, bölünmüş gece uykusu, canlı rüyalar, psikosomatik yakınmalar, cinsel istekte azalma gibi semptomlar izlenmektedir. Uyku bozukluklarının uluslararası sınıflandırması üçüncü baskı 2023 revizyonundaki (ICSD-3-TR-2023) kriterlere göre tanı konmaktadır. Olgumuzda GAU, bölünmüş gece uykuları, katapleksi, aşırı yemek yeme ve cinsel istek artışı mevcuttu. Klinik veriler, polisomnografi ve çoklu uyku latans testi sonucunda ICSD-3-TR-2023'e göre narkolepsi tip-1 tanısı aldı. Aşırı cinsel istek ayırıcı tanısında, "persistan genital arousal", "huzursuz genital sendrom", "seksomnia" ve "hiperseksüalite" hastalıklarının ayırt edilmesi planlandı. Ruhsal bozuklukların tanılarda ve istatistiksel el kitabı beşinci baskı kriterlerine göre hastada narkolepsi tip-1'e eşlik eden "hiperseksüalite" tanındı. Literatürde bugüne kadar narkolepsi tip-1 tanısında cinsel istekte artış gösterilmemiştir. Bu olguda narkolepsi tip-1 tanısıyla birlikte bugüne kadar izlenmemiş hiperseksüalite olgusunu literatür eşliğinde tartışılması amaçlanmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Hiperseksüalite, narkolepsi tip-1, psikosomatik semptomlar

### Abstract

Narcolepsy type-1 is a rare chronic sleep disorder that has negative effects on quality of life if left untreated. Symptoms such as excessive daytime sleepiness, cataplexy, sleep paralysis, disrupted night sleep, vivid dreams, psychosomatic complaints, and decreased sexual desire are also observed. Diagnosis will be made according to the criteria in the international classification of sleep disorders 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2023 revision (ICSD-3-TR-2023). In our case, there was excessive daytime sleepiness, disrupted night sleep, cataplexy, overeating, and increased sexual desire. As a result of clinical data, polysomnography, and multiple sleep latency tests, she was diagnosed with narcolepsy type-1 according to the ICSD-3-TR-2023 guidelines. In the differential diagnosis of excessive sexual desire, it was planned to distinguish "persistent genital arousal", "restless genital syndrome", "sexomnia", and "hypersexuality" diseases. According to the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders fifth edition criteria, "hypersexuality" accompanying narcolepsy type-1 was diagnosed in the patient. To date, no increase in sexual desire has been reported in the literature regarding the diagnosis of narcolepsy type-1. In this case, it is aimed to discuss a case of hypersexuality that has not been observed to date, together with a diagnosis of narcolepsy type-1, in the light of the literature.

**Keywords:** Hypersexuality, narcolepsy type-1, psychosomatic symptoms

### Giriş

Narkolepsi, önlenemez gündüz aşırı uykululuk (GAU), katapleksi, uyku paralizisi, halüsinasyon ve bozulmuş gece uykuları gibi semptomları içeren kronik nörolojik bir uyku hastalığıdır. Avrupa ve Kuzey Amerika popülasyonlarında tahmini prevalansı yüz binde yirmi beş ile elli olduğu tahmin edilmektedir.<sup>1</sup> Fizyopatolojisinde, dorsalateral hipotalamustaki hipokretin hücrelerinin otoimmün yıkımının neden olduğu düşünülmektedir.<sup>2</sup> Uyku bozukluklarının uluslararası sınıflandırması üçüncü baskı (ICSD-3) tanı sınıflamasına göre narkolepsi tip-1'in tetradı olarak tanımlanan semptomların dışında; enerji azlığı, dikkat dağınıklığı, hafıza kaybı, konsantrasyon kaybı, ajitasyon, anksiyete, canlı rüyalar, aşırı

yemek yeme, davranışsal bozukluklar ve libido kaybı gibi seksüel disfonksiyonlar görülebilmektedir.<sup>2</sup> Narkolepsi hastalarında psikosomatik semptomlar içinde en sık seksüel disfonksiyon görüldüğü bildirilmektedir. Ancak seksüel fonksiyonlarda artış olduğu bildirilen hasta daha önce tanımlanmamıştır. Burada bu nadir semptom ile izlenen narkolepsi tip-1 tanısı almış bir olguyu literatür eşliğinde tartışılması planlanmıştır.

### Olgu Sunumu

Olgumuz 34 yaşında kadın, evli, ev hanımı gün içerisinde istem dışı uyuklama şikayetiyle polikliniğimize başvurdu. Ani önlenemez uyku ataklarının 3 yıl önce gebelik sonrası başladığı, başlangıçta tek başına kaldığı dönemde olurken, 6 ay sonra

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Uyanıklığı kısmen kontrol altına alınmıştı ancak son zamanlarda kilo alımı ile uyuklama ataklarının artmaya başladığı öğrenildi. Narkolepsi semptomları ve cinsel isteğin aşırı artması nedeniyle mevcut tedavisine sodyum oksibat 4,5 mg/gün eklendi. Bir buçuk (1,5) yıldır sodyum oksibat kullanmakta olup yan etki gözlenmedi. Sodyum oksibat kullanırken kilo kaybı gözlemlendi ve son takibinde hastanın 75 kg olduğu, cinsel dürtü ve gündüz uyukluk şikayetleri kontrol altına alınabildiği belirlendi. Sodyum oksibat öncesi GAU ve hiperseksüalite günlük yaşamını etkileyecek ve sınırlayacak durumda iken, ilaç sonrası hasta evden daha rahat çıkabildiği, günlük işlerini yardımsız yaptığı öğrenildi.

## Tartışma

Olgumuzda GAU, katapleksi, gece uykularında bölünme, aşırı yemek yeme, davranışsal bozukluklar yanı sıra aşırı cinsel aktivite isteği vardı. Klinik, öykü ve PSG-ÇULT sonuçları ile hasta narkolepsi tip-1 olarak tanıdı.

Aşırı cinsel istek, ayırıcı tanısında, “persistan genital arousal (PGAD)”, “huzursuz genital sendrom (HGS)”, hiperseksüalite izlenen hipersomnolans tablosu olan Klein-Levin sendromu, seksomnia ve hiperseksüalite hastalıklarının ayırt edilmesi planlandı. PGAD, ilk defa 2001 yılında, Leiblum ve Nathan tarafından; belirgin hormonal, vasküler, nörolojik veya psikolojik nedenler olmadan cinsel isteğin yokluğunda yaşanan aralıksız genital uyarılma semptomları olarak tanımladı. Leiblum (2006) daha sonra bu kliniği PGAD olarak adlandırılmasını önerdi.<sup>3</sup> Kadın Cinsel Sağlığı Araştırmaları Derneği/ISSWSH PGAD için; 3 ay veya daha uzun süren, genitopelvik bölgede sürekli veya tekrarlayan, istenmeyen, rahatsız edici genital uyarılma duyuları ve bu duyular sonucu kontrol edilemeyen orgazmlar yaşamayı ve eş zamanlı cinsel ilgi ile ilişkili olmayan düşünce ve fantezilerin olması, kriterlerini belirlemişlerdir.<sup>3</sup> Olgumuzda cinselliğin istemli olması ve aşırı uyukluluk dönemlerinde bu durumun tetiklenmesi ve cinsel birliktelik sonrası rahatlama olması, fantezilerin eşlik etmemesi nedeni ile PGAD tanısı dışlandı. Hastanın yaşı, semptomların kümülatif (bir hafta, 10 gün süreli ve aralıklı ataklar halinde) olmaması, süregelenlik göstermesi ile klinik ve elektrofizyolojik olarak Klein-Levin sendromundan dışlanmasını sağladı.

Huzursuz bacaklar sendromunun bir alt tipi olarak, HGS de tanımlanmıştır. Özellikle istirahat ve akşam uyumaya çalışıldığında, vulvar disestezi, açıklanamayan genital bölgede rahatsızlık hissi, hareketle azalmanın olduğu bu hastalıkta, dopaminerjik tedaviyle bulguların azaldığı veya düzeldiği gösterilmiştir.<sup>4,5</sup> HGS, özellikle menopoz sonrası kadınlarda daha sık görülmektedir. Bunun nedeninin östrojenin nigrostriyal dopamin nöronlarını toksik etkilerden koruduğu, postmenopoz sonrası bu etkinin ortadan kalkmasından dolayı olduğu düşünülmektedir.<sup>4</sup> Olgumuzdaki bulguların aktif ve istirahat döneminde birlikte görülmesi, hareketle azalmaması, uykudan uyandırmaması bizi bu tanıdan uzaklaştırırken, dürtüsel davranışlarının hastamızda ön planda olması sebebiyle dopaminerjik tedavi vermek konusunda biraz çekimser kaldık. Seksomnia ise non-REM parasomnisi içerisinde yer almakla birlikte diğer parasomnilerle birlikte

izlenebilmektedir.<sup>6</sup> Olgumuzda uyku sırasında istemsiz cinsel birliktelik olmadığı için bu tanıdan uzaklaştık.

Hiperseksüalite, bireylerin kontrol etmekte zorlandığı, cinsel fanteziler, dürtüler ve davranışlarla yineleyici, yoğun ve aşırı meşguliyet modeli olarak tanımlanmaktadır.<sup>7</sup> Ruhsal bozuklukların tanıs ve istatistiksel el kitabı beşinci baskıya (DSM-5) göre tanı kriterlerinde; en az 6 aylık bir süre boyunca, beş kriterden dördü veya daha fazlasıyla ilişkili olarak tekrarlayan, yoğun cinsel fanteziler, cinsel dürtüler ve cinsel davranışların olması durumu olarak tanımlandı. Beş kriter içinde ise; cinsel fanteziler ve dürtüler ile cinsel davranışları planlamak ve bunlara katılmakla aşırı zaman harcamak yer almaktadır. Disforik ruh hali durumlarına yanıt olarak bu cinsel fanteziler, dürtüler ve davranışlarla tekrar tekrar meşgul olmak, stresli yaşam olaylarına yanıt olarak tekrar tekrar cinsel fanteziler, dürtüler ve davranışlarda bulunmak, bu cinsel fantezileri ve davranışları kontrol etmek veya önlemek amaçlı tekrarlayan ancak başarısız sonuçlanan çabalarda bulunmak olarak belirlenmiştir. Hasta, kendine veya başkalarına fiziksel veya duygusal zarar verme riskini göz ardı ederek, tekrar tekrar cinsel davranışta bulunmak ister. Bu dürtüsel davranışlar, sosyal, mesleki ya da diğer önemli işlevsellik alanlarında bozulmaya neden olmalıdır. Bu kriterler 18 yaş ve üstü kişiler için geçerli olmalı ve herhangi bir madde ya da tıbbi ya da psikiyatrik hastalık ile birlikte olmamalıdır.<sup>7</sup> Bu şekli ile olgumuz DSM-5'in hiperseksüalite tanı kriterlerini karşılıyordu. Literatürde narkolepsi tip-1 tanılı hastalarda hiperseksüalite hiç tanımlanmamıştır. Genelde literatürde seksüel disfonksiyonla ilişkili bulgular mevcuttu. Yapılan bir çalışmada narkolepsi tip-1 tanılı erkeklerin %48'inde ereksiyon, kadınların %81'inde vajinal lubrikasyon problemi izlenmiştir. Narkolepsi tip-1 tanılı erkeklerde pulsatil luteinizan hormon salınımının kontrollere kıyasla azalmış olduğu gösterilmiş ve hipokretin-1'in (hcrt-1) hipotalamik-hipofiz-gonadal eksen aktivitesinin düzenlenmesinde rol oynadığı vurgulanmıştır.<sup>8</sup> Joshi ve Singh<sup>9</sup> seks hormonu sentezinde rol oynadığını kanıtlamak için yetişkin farelere bir hcrt-1 reseptör antagonisti enjekte ederek serumdaki testosteron seviyesini azalttığı gösterilmiştir.

Olgumuzda hiperseksüalitenin nedeninin hipotalamustaki oreksin disfonksiyonuna mı bağlı olduğu, ya da hcrt-1 ilişkili santral regülatör sistem patolojisi sonrası mı geliştiği net değildir. Narkolepsi tip-1 hastalarında altta yatan diğer psikopatolojilerin spektrumunda hcrt-1 eksikliğinin nasıl bir rol oynadığının belirlenmesi için daha ileri çalışmalara gerek vardır.

## Etik

**Hasta Onayı:** Hastanın hem nöroloji servis yatışında hem de nöroloji uyku polikliniklerine geldiği zaman onamı alınmıştır.

## Yazarlık Katkıları

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