**THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIMARY CARE IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OBESITY AMONG CHILDREN**

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Obesity is a chronic disease that is difficult to treat and characterizes numerous complications in almost all organs and systems. It is important to note that the treatment of obesity among children is complicated by the fact that drug therapy of this disease is not applicable until the age of 12. So, timely prevention and treatment, both obesity and overweight are the most priority measures in solving this problem. It is known that the treatment and prevention of obesity first of all involves the development of dietary and adequate physical activity recommendations, so the family doctor should play a key role in monitoring children with this pathology [1, c. 42; 2, c. 261; 3, c. 136] .

In order to study the quality of outpatient ( polyclinic) care, we interviewed parents of children with obesity. According to the data obtained, the largest number (51,4 ± 3,6%) of children after the detection of obesity were regularly observed mainly by the endocrinologist, and by the family doctor - 35,7 ± 3,4% of children, respectively. 12.9 ± 2.4% of parents noted that they were not regularly observed by any specialist or engaged in self-medication. According to the results of the study, the recommendations (written or oral) regarding proper nutrition and adequate physical activity were obtained in 73 ± 2.7% of cases. At the same time, in 34 ± 2,8% of cases, recommendations were given by the family physician, 28 ± 2,7%- by endocrinologists or other specialists (most often the gastroenterologist was indicated 9 ± 1,7%) and 11 ± 1,8% were complex (by the group of specialists).

**Conclusion:** Thus, according to the results obtained, it is revealed that the level of primary medical assistance to children with obesity is not sufficient. It is recommended to create specialized departments, centers for correcting excess weight on the basis of outpatient clinics, increasing the level of professional training for primary care physicians in matters of nutritional and the responsibility of medical care provision to children with this pathology.

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