CONCLUSION: The impact of LGS on the HRQL of the parent and the child. RESULTS: Parents reported extensive difficulties in every aspect of their own lives. Major themes included burden of care on work and social activities, stigma, frustration, anxiety and other physical issues (including sleep disturbance), as well as concerns about the future for their child. With respect to the HRQL of the child, the parents reported that the physical functioning of the child is affected, particularly in relation to mobility difficulties. LGS has a significant affect on a child’s cognitive skills with some of the children not being able to walk. In addition, children with LGS tend to have little or no social skills and find interacting with others difficult. CONCLUSIONS: LGS has a substantial negative effect on the HRQL of parents of a child with LGS as well as on the HRQL of the child him/herself.

UTILITIES FOR MODERATE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE: RESULTS FROM A SURVEY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN CANADA

OBJECTIVES: (1) To elicit utility scores for moderate Alzheimer’s disease (AD) using the Canadian public; (2) to compare utility scores for Canadians’ self-assessed health status with utility scores for health status defined as moderate AD; (3) to measure awareness of AD; and (4) to determine factors that influence utility scores. METHODS: Five-hundred Canadians were randomly recruited to participate in a 15-minute face-to-face interview, or a 15-minute telephone interview. For the AD component of the EQ-SD, scores were higher for the current health status (79.16 versus 75.66). Age and income were significant explanatory variables for current health status utilities, but only age was significant in the determination of the utility score under the assumption of moderate AD. Gender, knowledge of someone with AD, or AD awareness scores had no impact. CONCLUSIONS: When measured by the EQ-SD, respondents would expect to assign a lower utility to their health status when they have moderate AD.

THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT STAGES OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS ON HEALTH UTILITIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

OBJECTIVES: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) causes neurological disability of varying severity. Disability in MS is measured by the Kurtzke Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS), a clinician-based neurological impairment rating scale (scale from 0 to 10).