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**CHILDREN WITH RETT SYNDROME AND THE ROLE OF THE
FAMILY**

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ABSTRACT

«Syndrome» is a term which underlies a complex /combination of both indications and symptoms. Every syndrome is defined through its own case -physical, mental and behavioral treats- which may due to genitival or environmental causes or, even, co-existence. One of the least relevant and rarely met genetic syndromes is the one of RRT. Current bibliography, which has been studying the <syndrome>, is relied on the development of this disorder, its symptoms and its cures.

The present study detects the psychosocial influence that the family receives from the diagnosis to the present time phase of the life of girls with syndrome RTT, as well as its future expectations. To achieve this goal, a qualitative study was conducted through a semi-structured in-depth interview on 6 parents of girls with syndrome RTT, aged 6-16 years. According to the results of the research, the parents seem to be able to manage the situation in the best possible way, without particularly affecting their social life. Furthermore, there is no apparent effect in their career and financial situation. In addition, the research showed that there is no particular trust in Greek doctors, therapists and mental support and counseling professionals. The latter is based, in the opinion of most parents, on the incomplete literature and the sporadic nature of the disease. In general, parents seem to handle a realistic view and admittance for their girls' disability. Last but not least, they are eager to cooperate in a strong, optimistic and positive attitude for their daughters' future prospects.

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