

ABSTRACT

The dissertation entitled *Knowledge of kidney function and disease in upper elementary school pupils of selected elementary schools* focuses on what knowledge of kidneys and kidney disease among pupils of selected elementary schools. The objective of the thesis is to show what knowledge pupils of the final two grades of selected elementary schools have about the structure and function of the kidneys as well as kidney disease and the possibilities of disease prevention, namely in terms of a suitable lifestyle and exercise. The theoretical part of the dissertation focuses on the description of the structure and function of the kidneys, kidney diseases and their treatment options, as well as the development of dialysis treatment since 2015 and assumptions about the success of the treatment. Importantly, it examines the Framework Educational Programme for elementary education, where the focus is on areas related to the topic of kidneys and their health. The practical part consists of an analysis of the answers of selected elementary school students to the questions in a questionnaire which contains questions focused on knowledge about kidney structure and function, possible risks to kidney health, the influence of diet and drinking habits on kidney health, and about disease prevention. Following from the results of the questionnaire survey, the practical part shows that students' overall knowledge is slightly above average. The overall average correct response rate among pupils from all selected elementary schools reached 65.11%. Pupils showed very good knowledge in answering questions focused on the ability of a person to live with a single healthy kidney or on the influence of diet and fluid intake on the development and progression of kidney disease. However, they achieved weaker results in knowledge of kidney function and kidneys' location in the human body. Based on the survey results, the conclusion of the dissertation proposes recommendations for school practice aiming at the practical use of knowledge. It also provides examples of teaching preparations for the lessons.