**Title:**

After the Earthquake: Unmet Needs in People with Cystic Fibrosis in Turkiye- Multicenter Study

**Lay Title:**

Income, Needs, and Insecurity in People with CF in Earthquake Zones

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**What was your research question?**

How did the February 2023 earthquake in Turkiye affect access to healthcare and basic needs like housing, food, medical care, and transportation in people with cystic fibrosis? We also wanted to understand how these challenges differ depending on family income levels.

**Why is this important?**

Cystic fibrosis is a long-term condition that needs daily care and regular doctor visits. After a big disaster like an earthquake, getting this care becomes even harder—especially for families with limited income. This study is important because it shows that disasters can make life more difficult for people who already face challenges. By learning about the problems people with cystic fibrosis had after the earthquake, we can help plan better support for medical care, housing, food, and transport. This is the first study to look at what people with cystic fibrosis need after a major natural disaster.

**What did you do?**

We surveyed 255 people with cystic fibrosis living in seven provinces heavily affected by the February 2023 earthquake in Turkiye. To understand their needs, we used a short, easy-to-understand questionnaire that asked about their daily life, including income, housing, access to food and healthcare, and whether they had to relocate because of the earthquake. We then looked at how these needs were affected by the family's income and whether they had to relocate after the disaster.

**What did you find?**

Most participants (92%) lived below the poverty threshold. After the earthquake, nearly 70% lived in crowded conditions and 38% moved to temporary housing. Many reported financial insecurity (77%), food insecurity (53%), and housing insecurity (45%). One-third experienced disruptions in hospital visits or daily cystic fibrosis care. These challenges were more common in people who had to relocate. We found that income level strongly affected access to basic needs such as transportation, food, and healthcare.

**What does this mean and reasons for caution?**

The earthquake made it harder for many people with cystic fibrosis to get the care and support they need. Financial and food insecurity were especially common in families with lower income, and relocating made these problems worse. However, this study only includes people with cystic fibrosis who visited clinics after the earthquake, so it may not fully represent everyone affected. Also, we couldn’t compare their situation before and after the disaster. Still, our findings highlight the urgent need for disaster response plans that include support for people with cystic fibrosis and other people with complex medical needs.

**What’s next?**

Future research should follow people with cystic fibrosis over time to understand how disasters and income level affect their health. Clear emergency plans should be created early, including support for medical care, housing, and finances, so families can manage both daily needs and the extra challenges caused by disasters.

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