Abstract

Overview: After setting out a conceptual framework that focuses on how personal and social resources aid adolescents in managing acute and chronic stressors, I describe methods by which to assess adolescents’ family environments and specific life stressors and social resources, and the approach and avoidance coping responses adolescents use to manage life stressors. I then review some research that employs these concepts and methods to focus on the families and life contexts, and coping skills, of youth with chronic medical disorders, including juvenile rheumatic disease (JRD). I close by drawing implications for assessment and intervention and describing some fruitful areas for future research, such as examining the reciprocal linkages between parental and youth behavior, how adolescents’ personal characteristics shape their...
life context, and how life crises and transitions enhance adolescents™ development and maturation.

Keywords
Adolescents; Coping skills; Family environment; Life stressors; Rheumatic disease; Social resources

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