D2.2: Patterns of Family Management of Childhood Chronic Conditions

Author List:
Presenting Author: Kathleen Knafl
Additional Author: Janet Deatrick, Agatha Gallo, George Knafl, Jane Dixon, Margaret Grey

Presenting Author: Kathleen Knafl
Address: 406 Brookgreen Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516
United States
Ph: 919-843-3175
Fax: 919-966-2286
Email: kknafl@email.unc.edu
Institution: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Additional Author: Janet Deatrick
Address: School of Nursing, 418 Curie Blvd.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
United States
Ph: 215-799-1898
Fax:
Email: deatrick@email.penn.edu
Institution: University of Pennsylvania

Additional Author: Agatha Gallo
Address: College of Nursing, 848 S. Damen
Chicago, Illinois 60612
United States
Ph: 312-996-1868
Fax:
Email: agallo@email.unc.edu
Institution: University of Illinois - Chicago

Additional Author: George Knafl
Address: 406 Brookgreen
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516
United States
Ph: 919-843-9868
Fax:
Email: gknafl@email.unc.edu
Institution: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Abstract:

Introduction: Research indicates that family management of childhood chronic conditions contributes to both child and family functioning. Based on the Family Management Style Framework, the Family Management Measure (FaMM) assesses how families incorporate condition management into family life. Using the 6 FaMM scales (Child's Daily Life, Management Ability, Management Effort, Family Life Difficulty, Parental Mutuality, View of Condition Impact), we did cluster analysis to identify patterns of family management and examine the relationship of cluster membership to child and family functioning.

Method(s): Data come from a sample of 579 parents (417 families) of children 2-18 years old with a chronic condition (349 partnered mothers, 165 spouses, 65 single mothers). The sample included children with 165 different conditions. Through telephone interviews, parents recruited from 20 sites in five states (CT, DE, IL, PA & VT) completed the FaMM and family (Family Assessment Device) and child (Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory, Functional Status Measure II) measures.

Results: Cluster analysis using k-means to adjust for missing values revealed 6 patterns of family management. Parents in the Effective pattern (n=139 parents; 40 dyads) scored high on the 3 FaMM scales indicative of greater ease in condition management and low on the 3 FaMM scales indicative of greater difficulty. In contrast, parents in the Problematic cluster (n=44 parents; 9 dyads) scored low on scales indicative of ease and high on scales indicative of
difficulty. In families with two parents participating, spouses reflected the same pattern. Parents in the other 4 clusters had differing patterns of ease and difficulty and differing patterns of response for spouses. There was a significant relationship between cluster membership and perceptions of family and child functioning. Parents in management clusters indicative of greater ease in management rated family and child functioning significantly more positively than those in clusters indicative of greater difficulty.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Cluster analysis considers multiple dimensions of condition management reported by parents. It is useful for identifying distinct patterns of strength and hardship in family response to childhood chronic conditions.

**Abstract History:**

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

**Non-Exclusive License:**

**Submitted by:**
kkenafi@email.unc.edu