A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC PAIN ON THE FAMILY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

It is estimated that 1 in 5 individuals across the lifespan suffer from chronic pain. Not only does chronic pain impact the health and functioning of the individual in pain, but also members of the wider family. The aim of the current study was to conduct a systematic review of the published literature on the economic, psychosocial and physical effects of chronic pain on parents, partners, siblings, and family.

METHODS

A search was conducted of electronic databases (PsycINFO, EMBASE, CINAHL, PubMed) using a combination of terms for chronic pain, family and family members and outcomes (e.g., family functioning, quality of life, distress, sleep, cost). Eligibility criteria included: (1) Empirical investigations of the economic, psychosocial or physical impacts of chronic or recurrent pain on the parents, partners, siblings, or family of the person in pain; (2) The individual in pain diagnosed with chronic or recurrent non-cancer pain, or with a medical condition in which pain is a defining feature; and (3) Published in manuscript form in English.

RESULTS

The search yielded 31,158 articles. After deletion of duplicates, the titles and abstracts of 21,222 articles were screened for eligibility. Of the studies screened, 1,471 were selected for further review. Impact on various family members was measured in the selected studies for a range of economic, psychosocial, and physical outcomes. Meta-analyses will operationalize the degree of impact in each area.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

Chronic pain impacts family members across the lifespan and in different domains of functioning.

OTHER AUTHORS

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