CHILDREN'S COPING WITH NEEDLE-RELATED PROCEDURES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF PARENT FACTORS

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

The aim of this study is to conduct a systematic review of different parenting factors that relate to children’s coping and coping outcomes during painful needle-related procedures.

METHODS

A systematic search was conducted in MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and PsycINFO. The search strategy retrieved 7850 references. 2401 duplicates were identified. The remaining 5449 articles were reviewed against inclusion criteria. To be included, studies had to be focused on children (ages 3 to 12 years) undergoing needle-related procedures and include a child coping behaviour variable, a child coping outcome variable, and a parent predictor variable. Studies were screened for eligibility. Reliability was achieved among reviewers.

RESULTS

Seventy-seven studies were initially found meeting inclusion criteria, with 58 specifically addressing a needle-related context. Twenty-five of the 58 remaining studies included a child coping behaviour and child coping outcome. Studies were categorized under 3 main parent-related domains: behavioural, psychological, and contextual. Parenting style, parent vocalizations, commands to use coping strategies, memories of child’s previous pain experiences, own levels of distress/anxiety, and presence versus absence during the procedure have all been shown to be related to children’s coping and coping outcomes during needle-related procedures.

DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS

Parent factors have been broadly studied in the context of children's coping. However, research has been mostly limited to restrictive models that fail to account for the interrelationships between parent factors, children’s coping, and children’s broader development (i.e. cognitive and socioemotitional functioning). No work to date has examined the construct of parent sensitivity and how this can influence child coping.

OTHER AUTHORS

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