EXAMINING CONCURRENT AND LONGITUDINAL PREDICTORS OF CHILD ANTICIPATORY DISTRESS TO IMMUNIZATION PAIN

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

Few studies have examined the prevalence of anticipatory distress in preschool age children or its longitudinal and concurrent predictors. This paper builds on a concurrent analysis that used four latent growth models (LGMs) in a structural equation modeling context to examine how well preschool anticipatory distress was predicted by infant pain responding at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age.

METHODS

A group of 202 caregiver-child dyads were observed during their infant and preschool immunizations (OUCH Cohort). Using a developmental psychopathology framework, longitudinal analyses examined the predisposing, precipitating, perpetuating, and present factors that led to the development of anticipatory distress during routine preschool immunizations.

RESULTS

A strong explanatory model was created whereby 41% of the variance in preschool anticipatory distress was explained. Parental behaviours from infancy and preschool were the strongest predictors of child anticipatory distress at preschool. Child age positively predicted child anticipatory distress.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

This strongly suggests that the involvement of parents in pain management interventions during immunization is one of the most critical factors in predicting anticipatory distress to the preschool immunization.

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