

# Whose Pain is it? Comparing Patient, Parent and Nurse Pain Perceptions

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## Introduction

Pediatric hematology/oncology patients experience a wide variety of acute and chronic pain. Nurses and parents who care for these children often have different perceptions of the child's pain level, which can result in inadequate assessment & treatment of pain. Our goal is to educate our nursing colleagues on the most accurate way to assess pediatric pain to better care for this patient population.

## PICO

**P:** Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Inpatients

**I:** Consistency of nurse/parent & patient pain perception

**C:** Nurse/parent perception of patient's pain vs. patient's perception of pain

**O:** Accurate assessment & treatment of patient's pain

## Methods

A literature search was conducted to include the following databases:

-Pubmed, CINAHL, EBSCO Host

The search terms used included:

-Pediatric hematology/oncology inpatients

- Pain perception

-Nurse and parent

## Results

From the Literature Search, 10 articles were found, only 5 articles were relevant to the PICO question.

Meta-analysis- 1

Descriptive quantitative- 1

Descriptive qualitative- 2

Longitudinal study- 1



## Discussion

### Journal of Advanced Nursing

#### Meta-analysis:

-12 studies compiled comparing child/adolescent self-report of pain and parent/nurse pain reports

#### Findings:

-Results varied and limited by small sample sizes

-Nurse and patient scores were more closely correlated than parent and patient

### International Journal of Nursing Studies

#### Descriptive qualitative study:

-Questionnaire asking nurses to indicate how they prepared parents for what to expect regarding their child's pain post-procedure

#### Findings:

-Parents knew what to expect pre- and intra-procedure but not what to expect post-procedure

### Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing

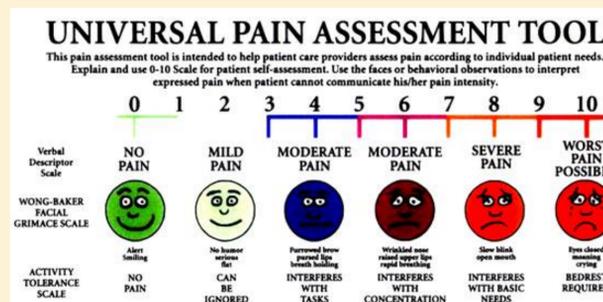
#### Descriptive qualitative study:

-Parents asked to report most distressing symptoms their children experience

#### Findings:

-Pain is primary complaint among parents of this patient population

-Patient age affected parents' main complaint (younger children- more pain, older children- more nausea)



### Journal of Pain and Symptom Management

#### Longitudinal study:

-Parents were asked to describe what they perceived to be the most distressing to children receiving cancer treatment

#### Findings:

-Pain was the parents' #1 concern

-Symptom burden decreased over time

-Age of the child affected parent pain perception

### Children's Health Care Journal

#### Descriptive quantitative:

-Compared child self report with nurse and parent reports of pain related to routine immunizations

#### Findings:

-Nurses reported lower pain than patient self reports, but there is no significant difference in parent and child reports of pain

-All reports of pain were positively correlated but the level of pain varied widely

## Conclusions & Recommendations

More research with larger sample sizes is needed on this topic. Both patient and parent pain perceptions are important to assess. Parent perceptions of their child's pain may differ by the child's age, but not by sex, presence of siblings, diagnosis or prognosis. The more prepared a parent is of what to expect regarding their child's pain, the more consistent the pain perceptions are between parent and child. Nurses should be cautious when considering their own perception of patient pain. They should be educated on appropriate assessment tools for child's developmental level, as well as how to prepare parents on what to expect.

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