E-Poster

EP-155

Children's Lived Experiences in Physical Participation at Home, School, and Immediate Community Combined With Clinicians Input on Assessing These Physical Participations

Topic: Specific Target Groups (Children, Women, Elderly, Athletes, Musicians, Refugees, Ethnic Groups, Workers, and Others

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BACKGROUND

The exploratory study aimed to gather perspectives from children diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) on their physical participation at home, in school, and within their immediate community. Additionally, the study included a clinician questionnaire to comprehend healthcare professionals' viewpoints on using physical performance outcome measures (PPOMs).

METHODS

Eight females, aged seven to 16 years, participated in semi-structured interviews. Two individuals (NY and LM) conducted the semi-structured interviews based on six set, open-ended questions. Interviews were voice-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using the inductive and comparative strategy of hand coding. Codes were then categorized based on the recurring elements and patterns, amalgamating categories to form a theoretical framework to answer the research questions. Sixty-five healthcare professionals electronically responded to questions regarding clinicians' implementation of objective outcome measures in research and practice.

RESULTS

Child participants reported that their participation in physical activity is primarily hindered by limitations in activities like walking and running, attributable to physical impairments of pain and fatigue. The bidirectional relationship between pain and functional disability underscores the importance of assessing functionality as a critical health domain. Presently, clinicians predominantly assess functional ability, while aerobic capacity receives the least attention.

CONCLUSION

Children's experiences should inform clinical practice. Clinicians and teachers require more in-depth education on the physical participation of children diagnosed with JIA to improve their ability to participate within the South African context. Families should be continuously encouraged to allow their children to be physically active and promote physical participation.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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Doi: 10.5606/archisprm.2026.EP-155