

DECISIONAL CONFLICT AND SHARED DECISION MAKING IN OLDER CHILDREN AND PARENTS CONSIDERING ELECTIVE PEDIATRIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY SURGERIES

Amanda MacDonald, Jill Chorney, Paul Hong

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

OBJECTIVES:

Shared decision-making (SDM) is a process in which patients/families and clinicians make decisions in a collaborative manner when multiple treatment options exist. The objectives of this study were to assess the level of decisional conflict and shared decision-making experienced by older children and their parents when considering elective pediatric otolaryngology surgeries.

METHODS:

A prospective cohort study at a pediatric otolaryngology clinic at the IWK Health Centre was performed. Pediatric patients (>6 years) and their parents undergoing surgical consultations were recruited. Parents completed the Decisional Conflict Scale (DCS) and Shared Decision Making Questionnaire-Patient Version (SDM-Q-9). Older children (9-15 years) also completed the DCS and SDM-Q-9. Physicians completed the Shared Decision Making Questionnaire-Physician-Version (SDM-Q-Doc).

RESULTS:

A total of 84 parents and children were enrolled (24 children >9 years). Overall 14 (16.7%) parents and 8 (33.3%) children reported clinically significant decisional conflict. Parents who opted not to proceed with surgery had significantly higher DCS scores than those who decided to proceed with surgery ($p<0.01$). Both parents and children SDM-Q-9 and total DCS scores were significantly negatively correlated ($p<0.01$ and $p<0.01$, respectively). Physician SDM-Q-Doc and parent total DCS scores were negatively correlated ($p<0.01$), while parent and physician SDM scores were positively correlated ($p<0.01$).

CONCLUSION:

Many children and parents reported significant decisional conflict when considering elective pediatric otolaryngology surgeries. Decisional conflict levels for both children and parents decreased with greater perceived levels of SDM. Children did not appear to discern the same levels of SDM as parents and surgeons. Future research should focus on methods to implement shared decision making into clinical practice.