ACCULTURATION AND FEVER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN MEXICAN AMERICAN PARENTS

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ABSTRACT

This clinical inquiry project aims to explore the relationship between acculturation and fever management practices, knowledge, and use of antipyretics in children of Mexican American parents. There are currently no research studies available that address levels of acculturation and fever management practices in Mexican American parents.

A fever management survey, acculturation rating scale, and demographic survey will be used to collect data from a convenience sample of 168 Mexican American parents (56 participants in each of 3 groups based on the age of the youngest child in the family) at a private pediatric clinic.

Significance (alpha) was .05 with a power (beta) of .80 for the proposed effect size of .30. Results from this clinical inquiry project will enable clinicians to develop practices that promote healthy practices of managing fever and use of antipyretics in Mexican American parents.

INTRODUCTION

Fever phobia is an unrealistic fear that an increase in body temperature can cause death (Schmitt, 1989; Tessler, Gorodischer, Press, & Bilenko, 2008).

Parents feel unprepared and have a high degree of anxiety when dealing with their children who have a fever.

Parents often do not have knowledge about normal and elevated temperature readings (Walsh & Edwards, 2006).

Parents’ knowledge about the management of fever is often based on past personal experiences, cultural practices, and information obtained from friends, family members and healthcare providers (Poirier, Davis, Gonzales-Del Rey & Monroe, 2006).

Parents’ knowledge about the effectiveness and appropriate dosing of antipyretics is also a concern (Walsh & Edwards, 2006).

Parents may give acetaminophen more frequently than the recommended 4 hour interval.

Medication errors are the most common form of mistakes that lead to patient injury, hospitalization, and death (Institute of Medicine [IOM], 2006).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of acculturation on Mexican American parental knowledge regarding fever management in their children.

The investigation of acculturation and fever management practices can provide important information about parents’ practices when caring for a febrile child and assist nurse practitioners to assess the unnecessary stress and anxiety on the parents when managing the child’s fever.

METHODS

Participants (n = 168)

Mexican American parents of children ages 3 months to 12 months, 13 months to 5 years of age, and 6 years to 12 years of age were included.

Measurements

• Demographic questionnaire: age, sex, marital status, number of children, years of education, healthcare insurance coverage
• ARMSA II - acculturation tool for Mexican Americans
• Parent Fever Management Survey (PFMS) measures fever management practices

Analysis

• Descriptive statistics, including means with standard deviations
• Pearson Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation used to test the relationship between participant’s PFMS and ARMSA II scores
• Statistical significance set at p < 0.05

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Cultural Care Diversity and Universality (Leininger, 1995)

• Human beings are one with their cultural heritage and social structure
• Cultural congruent nursing care as care that has beneficial meanings and health outcomes to people of different or similar cultural backgrounds

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

• Research Question 1: What is the effect of acculturation on the fever management of children of Mexican American parents?
  • A simple linear regression, using acculturation as a predictor, will predict fever management. Higher scores will indicate increased acculturation and the ability to manage fevers appropriately.

• Research Question 2: What is the relationship between Mexican American parents’ level of acculturation and parental knowledge of fever management practices for their children?
  • A Pearson Product Moment correlation will be conducted to examine the relationship between Mexican American parents’ level of acculturation and knowledge of fever management practices.

• Research Question 3: What is the effect of Mexican American parents’ level of acculturation and parental behaviors on the use of antipyretics to treat fever in their children?
  • A multiple linear regression will be conducted to examine the effect of the predictors of acculturation and parental behaviors on the outcome measure of use of antipyretics.

• Research Question 4: Is there a difference in Mexican American parents’ acculturation, knowledge, and practices about fever management in children aged 3 months to 12 months, 13 months to 5 years of age, and 6 years to 12 years of age?
  • A separate ANOVAs will be conducted to examine the differences between the three age groups on parents’ acculturation, knowledge, and practices

• Research Question 5: What is the effect of Mexican American parents’ level of acculturation, knowledge, and parental behaviors on the fever management practices?
  • A multiple regression will predict fever management practices’ acculturation, knowledge, and behaviors

REFERENCES

