

00154 **Parental Perceptions of Clinical Research in Paediatric Surgery: A Pilot Study**

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Aims: Participant recruitment in paediatric research requires parental consent. We evaluate parental attitudes to clinical research in a general paediatric surgical setting.

Methodology: An ethically approved prospective survey was administered to parents/legal guardians accompanying their children in the paediatric surgical outpatient clinic (OC) or day surgery (DS) using convenience sampling in September-November 2017. We modified a published survey (Abernathy et al) employing Likert scale responses. Questions included demographics, parental willingness to enrol children in specified types of research and beliefs regarding conduct of research. Responses were converted to scores for analysis. Chisquared tests or Mann-Whitney U tests were used with $p < 0.05$ significance.

Result: Eighty-four parents were surveyed (OC, $n=67$; DS, $n=17$) of 100 approached. Most were willing to enrol their child in research involving sample collection: urine (96%), saliva (86%), extant blood samples (81%); but this dropped significantly when additional blood draws were required (49%, $p < 0.001$). Parents were significantly less amenable to studies involving investigational compared to common therapies ($p < 0.001$), and significantly less likely to enrol their children in studies with elements of randomisation compared to common therapies ($p < 0.001$). Barriers to enrolment included child's young age (45%) and perceived compromise to privacy (32%). Majority were amenable to research relating to their child's condition (82%) and felt that research should be conducted to help others (89%).

Conclusion: Most parents see the benefit and necessity of clinical research. However, studies involving novel investigational treatments or elements of randomisation create uncertainty, making parents less amenable to enrolling their child in research.