

00421 Demographic Factors Affecting Parental Attitudes to Clinical Research in Paediatric Surgery: A Pilot Study

Chen Yoong Wend¹, Lee Li Wen¹, Candy Choo², Chen Yong², Shireen Nah²

¹Duke-NUS Medical School, ²KK Women's & Children's Hospital

Aims: We evaluate demographic factors impacting parental attitudes to clinical research in general paediatric surgery.

Methodology: An ethically approved prospective survey was administered to parents/legal guardians accompanying their children in the paediatric surgical outpatient clinic or day surgery using convenience sampling in September-November 2017. We modified a previously published survey employing Likert scale responses. Questions included demographics, parental willingness to enrol children in specified types of research and beliefs regarding conduct of research. Logistic regression analysis was used to identify significant factors, and reconfirmed by Chi-squared tests with $p < 0.05$ significance level.

Result: Eighty-four parents were surveyed of 100 approached. No demographic factors significantly predicted research participation involving sample collection (urine, saliva, blood) or research requiring follow-up (phone, email, appointment, diary). However, mothers were less likely to agree to studies using common medications ($p=0.049$) or common surgical procedures ($p=0.013$); and less likely to agree to randomisation involving surgery (assigning to common surgical procedure, $p=0.012$; assigning to surgery vs no surgery, $p=0.031$). University graduates were less likely to agree to randomisation to either surgery or no surgery ($p=0.02$). Beliefs regarding conduct of research were similar in all categories, except for concerns regarding privacy where non-university graduates were more likely to believe that privacy would be compromised ($p=0.003$).

Conclusion: This study indicates behavioural and attitude differences in caregivers and can inform strategies for recruitment amongst researcher.