

RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF FAMILY EXPERIENCES DURING RESUSCITATION AT A CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Anne Young, Ed.D.
Texas Woman's University
College of Nursing
1130 John Freeman Blvd.
Houston, TX 77030

Patricia McGahey, MSN
Intensive Care Service
Department of Medicine
Texas Children's Hospital
Section of Critical Care
Baylor College of Medicine

Holly S. Lieder, MSN
Intensive Care Service
Department of Medicine
Texas Children's Hospital
Section of Critical Care
Baylor College of Medicine

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Although family presence during cardiac resuscitation (CPR) and invasive procedures is gaining new emphasis in emergency departments, no studies specifically address family presence during CPR in pediatric populations. Because of their vulnerability and inability to care for themselves, children represent a unique group (McGahey, 2002).

Purpose: To facilitate development and implementation of a policy regarding family presence during resuscitation/invasive procedures in a pediatric setting, the objectives of this descriptive, retrospective study include: (1) Describe experiences of family members whose children underwent resuscitation that was initiated prior to arrival and continued in the Emergency Department at a Children's Hospital; (2) Identify essential information about how to improve experiences for family members whose children undergo resuscitation; and (3) Assess mental and health functioning of parents/guardians following their child's resuscitation.

Method: Thirty English or Spanish speaking family members will be interviewed using the Family Presence during Resuscitation/ Invasive Procedures Questionnaire, the Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI-18), the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Questionnaire (PTSD), and the Short Form Health Survey v 2 (SF-12v2). Interviews of family members identified as Spanish speaking will be conducted in Spanish. Interviews are expected to last approximately one hour. At the conclusion of the interview, a list of mental health resources available to family members in the immediate geographic area will be provided.

Findings: Frequencies and percentages will be calculated for nominal variables and means and standard deviations for interval/ ratio variables. The BSI-18, PTSD, and SF-12v2 will be compared to established norms. Open-ended interview questions will be analyzed through development of thematic categories. Findings will guide development and prospective testing of a family presence protocol.

Discussion: This study is currently in progress. To date five interviews have been conducted with both English and Spanish speaking family members.