

Abstract

Title: Parents' evaluation of complex care for neurologically impaired children

Objectives: Thesis aims to assess parents' views on the complex rehabilitation care provided to their children with neurological disabilities, or to point out deficiencies in the multidisciplinary approach to therapy.

Methods: Both qualitative and quantitative methods were combined in the form of a mixed methods research. The qualitative part included semi-structured interviews with 8 families. These interviews were aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the parents' perspectives regarding the care provided for their children. A core set of questions provided a framework for discussion and provided the possibility of further focusing on specific themes as needed. Data were segmented and coded into units that were compared with each other within an embedded theory framework. The quantitative analysis involved an online questionnaire which contained both closed and semi-closed questions. This questionnaire was completed by a sample of 62 families. It was developed using the Click4Survey tool allowed for comprehensive implementation and evaluation of the responses. Relative frequency was used for statistical data analysis.

Results: The qualitative part of the study provided detailed understanding of parents' experiences with the comprehensive rehabilitation care for their neurologically impaired children. The findings revealed that parents face a challenging process from the initial child's diagnosis to coordinating and providing appropriate care. It was found that access to information about therapies and rehabilitation options is often insufficiently available to parents, leaving them to rely on their own initiative for decision-making. Parents rate the Vojta method as the most effective of the applied methods, but the intensity of the therapies is particularly important for them. In the quantitative part of the study, the stated hypotheses were confirmed and findings from the qualitative part were supported.

Keywords: complex care, neurological diseases, children, family, multidisciplinary team

