

CHRD 2023: Abstract Submission Form

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Research Category Community Health / Policy Presenter Status Undergraduate Students

Role in the project Perform Experiments Analyze Data Write Abstract

Title

Family Relationships of Children with Chronic Kidney Disease and their Siblings: An Ecomap Approach

Background

The diagnosis and treatment of pediatric chronic kidney disease (CKD) can cause significant changes to the lives and daily routines of young people and their families. To date, there has been limited research conducted on relationships within these families, particularly from the perspective of the young people with CKD themselves.

Objective

The objective of this qualitative pilot study was to explore the perspectives of young people and their siblings concerning their family relationships using ecomaps.

Methods

Ecomaps are diagrams that are created to visualize social environments and demonstrate the nature and quality of relationships within family systems. Inclusion criteria for the present study consisted of families with one young person with CKD and at least one sibling between 8 and 17 years of age, and one adult caregiver willing to participate. Four young people with CKD (three males and one female) and six siblings (five males and one female) participated, ranging in age from 8 to 16 years. During separate and independent semi-structured interviews, young people and their siblings were asked to construct ecomaps that described their support networks; interviews were conducted online and in person, and after transcribing were coded utilizing thematic analysis.

Results

Four main themes were identified: Most Significant Relationships, Intrafamilial Social Routines, Adaptation of Shared Activities, and Frustration and Understanding. Results provided insight into the sources and types of supports for young people with CKD and their siblings. These were discussed within resilience and family systems frameworks.

Conclusion

Our findings have important implications for healthcare and allied health professionals who support these families, as several unmet needs of young people and their siblings were identified.

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