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INCHILDPAIN

Chronic pain in children

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Chronic pain (CP) is a common problem among children, with negative consequences to the individual, the family and society. Moreover, recent research has shown that CP prevalence is increasing in children across many countries. Despite the high (and growing) prevalence of CP in children, it continues to be largely unrecognized, understudied, and undertreated. Evidence-based treatment guidelines are available for adults, but treatment options for children with CP remain limited, due in large part by: (1) the lack of sophistication in the patient-reported outcome measures (PROMS) used for assessing key outcomes, (2) a lack of research on (and therefore the understanding of) the factors that influence CP and its impact, and (3) the very limited access to CP specialized care for children. Research on CP in children continues to be fragmented, and there is a lack of adequate support for both research and clinical programs, particularly when compared to adults. Support for the development of a network that could identify specific research gaps, develop recommendations to overcome those gaps, and provide guidelines to support future research is an appropriate next step to deal with these issues. These activities can be accomplished by an international interdisciplinary and collaborative network, such as the IN-ChildPain network. We propose to address two cross-cutting challenges. First, we propose to identify the most important outcome domains that should be assessed in paediatric pain clinical trials and identify the most appropriate (i.e., psychometrically robust, available to researchers at no cost, and easy to translate into multiple languages) PROMs. Second, we propose to develop a guide for an international registry of children with CP and develop a research protocol to study the availability of, and access to, different treatments, to help evaluate their effects as naturally provided to patients.