The Role of Parental Health Beliefs in Seeking an Eye Examination for Their Child

Authors : Dua Masarwa, Yulia Niazov, Merav Ben Natan, Dina Mostovoy

Abstract : Background: the aimed to explore the role of parental health beliefs in parent seeking of eye examinations for their children, using the Health Belief Model. Methods: In this quantitative correlational survey study, 100 parents who presented to Barzilai University Medical Center in July 2021 to perform an eye examination to their child completed a questionnaire. Results: Only 29.6% of the parents knew that a vision screening is performed in first grade, and 10% of the parents were unsure about where to find local eye care for their kids. Moreover, 19% of the parents indicated that they were concerned that their child would be prescribed glasses unnecessarily, and 10% believed that wearing glasses would weaken their child's eyes. Various parental health beliefs regarding children's eye examinations were found associated with parent seeking of eye examinations for their child. Thus, perceived susceptibility ($r = 0.52$, $p < 0.01$), perceived benefits ($r = 0.39$, $p < 0.01$), and perceived barriers ($r=-0.31$, $p < 0.01$) are associated with parent seeking of eye examinations for their child. Also, parents' level of knowledge was associated with seeking eye examinations for their child ($r = 0.20$, $p < 0.01$). Conclusion: Parent perceptions of the child's susceptibility to vision problems and perceived barriers to seeking eye examinations predicted parents seeking of eye examinations for their child. Interventions aimed at increasing timely eye examinations among children should focus on raising parent awareness of vision problems in childhood, dispelling misconceptions, and providing parents with practical information regarding available services.
Keywords : children, parents, eye examination, health beliefs, vision problems

Conference Title : ICN 2025 : International Conference on Nursing
Conference Location : Tokyo, Japan
Conference Dates : January 09-10, 2025