

Do caregivers recall JAI treatment recommendations intended by medical teams?

childhood
disability
LINK



Summary

Recall of treatment-related behavior is often used by health-care providers to assist in clinical decisions for Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JAI) treatment. However, caregivers may believe they are adhering to treatment when in reality, their understanding of the recommendations are different than the ones intended by the medical team. In this study, researchers examined whether caregiver recall of children's JIA treatment matched actual recommendations at baseline and 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. A total of 235 primary caregivers were recruited from rheumatology clinics at 2 pediatric university-based teaching hospitals in Canada. Using the Parent Adherence Report Questionnaire, caregivers indicated whether their child was prescribed medications and/or exercises. Medical charts were then reviewed to compare and contrast care-giver recall with the prescribed treatment. The agreement between caregiver recall and prescribed treatment was calculated. Agreement for medication recommendations was substantial to almost perfect beyond chance, with better levels of agreement at 12 months than at baseline. However, agreement for exercise recommendations was slight to moderate. Weaker agreement for the exercise regimen raises concern that caregivers may pay less attention to exercise recommendations than medication recommendations, or that these particular recommendations may not be easily understood.

What practitioners should know

Health care providers should apply caution when making decisions about treatment based on recall of treatment-related behaviors. Health care providers need to make sure their patients understand treatment recommendations, particularly for exercise regimens. Health care providers should record treatment recommendations accurately and consistently in medical charts. In doing so, they will be able to verify with families and resolve any possible misunderstanding with the prescribed treatment.

Reference

[De Civita, M., Ehrmann Feldman, D., Meshefedjian, G., Dobkin, P.L., Malleson, P., Duffy, C.M. \(2007\). Caregiver Recall of Treatment Recommendations in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. Arthritis Care Res, 57, 219-225.](#)