**Concordance Levels in Pediatric and Parent Proxy Responses**

Minha Ghani,1 Abel Sandoval Gonzalez,2 Tapasvini Paralkar,2 S. Hadi Ahmed,3 Sawyer Stubbs,4 and Nico Osier4,5

1. College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), 2. College of Natural Sciences, UT Austin, 3. McCombs School of Business, UT Austin, 4. Dell Medical School, UT Austin, 5. School of Nursing, UT Austin

**Purpose:** To evaluate the concordance between parent-proxy and pediatric responses to self-reported health measures, following a traumatic brain injury (TBI), using data from a longitudinal study.

**Background:**

TBIs can result in short term or long term deficits in physical and psychological health (1).

It is important to systematically track symptoms, after a TBI, to elucidate possible patterns in the recovery process.

Clinical study’s often rely on self-reported measures. Proxy responses are common when cognitive or physical deficits can effect a participants ability to self-report, as seen in this study due to age and/or injury.

**Methods:**

IRB approval was gained from the University of Texas at Austin and site approval was gained from Dell Children’s Medical Center

This study enrolled participants aged 5 - 16 with TBIs (cases) or orthopedic injuries (controls). Responses were recorded for 5 Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) measures at baseline, 3 and 6 months. Each of the 5 measures were completed by both the Pediatric participants and their parent-proxies. Responses from 90 participants were analyzed.

Data was pre-processed and analyzed using Microsoft Excel, python, Health Measures scoring service, and R programming language. Missing values were imputed using the K-nearest neighbors method.

**Measures of Concordance:**

- **Cosine Similarity** was calculated by measuring the angle between the trajectory (i.e change over time) of participants’ T-scores for a survey compared to those reported by their parent-proxy.
- **Normalized Average Difference** was calculated by finding the average of the difference between pediatric and parent-proxy T-scores reported at each time period and normalizing it by the standard deviation of the PROMIS reference population.

**Results:**

No significant differences were found between:

- pediatric vs. parent-proxy survey responses
- participants of differing ages, ethnicities, sexes, or injury type
- type of survey, positive or negative, or specific survey

**Limitations:**

- missing data points, limited scales, and small sample size

**Future Studies:**

- replicating finding in a larger, more racially diverse population
- exploring effect of proxy relationship and sex on concordance

**Conclusion:** Participant responses were in concordance with those of their parent-proxy; this supports the use of proxy responses for pediatric TBI populations.

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