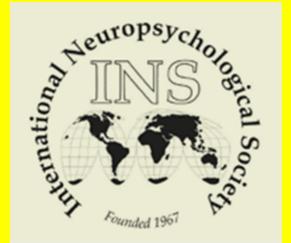




An Examination of Parental Concussion Knowledge Across Cultures

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Introduction: Parents play a critical role in the care of youth athletes who have sustained concussions. Accurate parental knowledge and education is key to advocating for proper treatment and management of their children. However, the level of parents' concussion knowledge may vary depending on variables such as ethnicity, parent education level, income level, and cultural factors. **1**

Background: In the US, over the past 15 years, there has been a concerted effort to educate all those individuals involved in youth sports to be aware of concussion risks, resulting in laws across the nation. The need for youth concussion education and parent knowledge research is growing, predominantly in English speaking countries (US, Canada, Australia) with initiatives for sports concussion awareness. However, many areas of the world have not experienced access to youth concussion education programs, policy or guidelines, or research on parental knowledge.

Method: A questionnaire survey was completed by 40 parents of youth soccer players ages 5-17, in Sicily, Italy, which accessed parents' knowledge about concussion. These results were contrasted with findings of other published studies of parent concussion knowledge.

Results: Italian parents were more familiar with somatic symptoms (92.5%-100% correct), than emotional/behavioral (27.5%-57.5% correct) and sleep symptoms (45.0%). **2,3** Comparisons to U.S. and Australian research showed general agreement on knowledge of concussion symptoms, but less awareness of injury facts among Italian parents **4**.

Conclusions: The literature regarding parent knowledge of concussion across the world is lacking. More international and cross-cultural studies that focus on youth and parent education and the factors that affect access to concussion programming and acquisition of concussion knowledge around the world are recommended. International advocacy efforts are needed.

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Present Study vs. O'Brien et al. 2019		
N	40	61
Males	37.5%	36%
Females	62.5%	64%
Mean Age	42.63	39.4
Years of Education	13.08	
Had a concussion	5%	15%
Knows someone who had a concussion	17.5%	25%
Child had a concussion	0%	

% Accurate Answers for Indicators

Present Study vs. O'Brien et al.(2019)

Have to have LOC	42.5%	91.80%
Needs a hit to head	42.5%	63.93%
Neuroimaging shows evidence of damage	55.0%	32.79%
Increased likelihood of future concussion	37.5%	65.57%

Endorsement of Concussion Sign/Sx

Sleep/Insomnia Difficulties

Present Study vs. Kay et al (2017)

45.0% 89.7%

Attention/Concentration Difficulties

Present Study vs. Konin et al. (2017)

77.5% 96%