

Use of the Pediatric Quality of Life Measure in the Burn Camps Population

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Background

- Validated outcomes for burn camp programs are limited.
- Our goal was to find and implement an outcome tool to track change in our camper's long-term quality of life.
- The Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory (PedsQL) is a tool used to measure health-related quality of life in children and adolescents.
- The PedsQL has established norms for the healthy, typical population for benchmarking purposes and community health comparisons with other medical diagnoses.
- Our camp programs address: isolation, social skill development, body image, negative beliefs, risk-taking, and academic challenges. The lessons learned at camp are unique and support lifelong success.

Methods

- The PedsQL consists of forms for children ages 2-4, 5-7, 8-12, and 13-18. There is a separate parent proxy-report of the child's health-related quality of life.
- Parents and campers fill out the form at the start of camp. Follow up surveys are sent out 3 months post camp. Follow up data is entered and compared to original scores.
- The PedsQL measures: **physical, emotional, social, and academic function**
- Three scores are generated from the data including total score, psychosocial score, and physical health score.
- We hypothesize positive changes in PedsQL scores with participation in burn camp.

Results

Camper Survey	Pre-Camp	3-month Post-Camp
Total Score	83.70	90.22
Psychosocial Health summary Score	81.67	89.17
Physical Health Summary Score	90.63	95.31

Parent Survey	Pre-Camp	3-month Post-Camp
Total Score	82.61	93.48
Psychosocial Health Summary Score	81.67	90.83
Physical Health Summary Score	93.75	98.44

- The PedsQL was used in our burn camp population, consisting of 98 campers ages 8-18. We received 26 (27%) follow up surveys. The results of these scores are trending in a positive direction as predicted and show an overall improvement in quality of life following participation in burn camp.
A higher score indicates a better Health-Related Quality of Life (0-100).



Conclusions

- This tool appears sensitive enough to detect changes in quality of life over time.
- These findings support the positive impact of camp.
- Both campers and parents reported positive changes following camp.
- Our findings support the benefit of continued research using this tool.
- This tool will help our burn camp program assess the physical, emotional, social and academic function and growth of our campers.

Implications

- The PedsQL tool is used in healthy, acute and chronic health conditions, making it applicable for burn camp programs.
- Using outcome measures for medical specialty camps is necessary and currently lacking in the literature.
- The data we have received from the PedsQL has a greater potential to compare different subgroups. This may help guide additional, more specialized programming to meet the needs of campers' overall quality of life.

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