

Cross Cultural Aspects of Parental Perceptions and Expectations for their Children with Craniofacial Conditions

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Background

- Cultural differences in perception of facial disfigurement by children (Sanchez & Harper, 1994)
- Clinical reports in work with parents of disfigured children from Mexico

Hypothesis

- There are significant cultural differences in parent's perceptions of offspring with facial disfigurement from burn injury, with Hispanic parents having a more pessimistic view.

Participants

- 61 Mothers of adolescent burn survivors
- Language (Mean age)
 - 15 English (41 years)
 - 46 Spanish (41 years)
- Offspring
 - 11yrs – 18yrs (mean age 14)
 - 27 Female, 34 Male
 - ≥ 2 post burn injury
 - Burn injury: 2% - 85%

Methods

- 33 items in Facial Differences Module of the Youth Quality of Life Instruments Study assessed parental views of:
 - future prospects
 - social competency
 - adaptive functioning
- Compared Spanish speaking (N=46) & English speaking parents (N=15) using Mann-Whitney Test

Future Prospects

- **Live to be 25**
- **Married by age 30**
- **Complete additional education past high school**
- **Enjoy job by age 25**

Social Competency

- Other people hug
- Got invited to parties
- Went out on date
- Help someone who needed it
- Conversation with an adult
- Spent time with friend
- Been bullied
- Felt unwelcome
- Told peers about facial difference
- Talked to anyone about the future
- Talked with someone they did not know
- Went out in public
- Got into fight because of face
- Invited to hang out with new group

Adaptive Functioning

- Grades in School
- Child made decisions about bedtime
- Behavior caused problems with family
- Had emotional problem that needed help
- Family members had serious arguments
- Activity missed because of physical or emotional problem
- Heard other people say something about face
- Need more surgery
- Skipped class at school
- Could not shake off the blues
- Good mood
- Work around house
- Time on activity enjoyed
- Work for pay
- List of school clubs

Results

- Significant differences ($p < .01$) on 5 of the 33 items
 - Spanish speaking < English speaking
- Future Prospects
 - complete additional education past high school
- Social Competency
 - spent time with friend
 - went out on date
 - went out in public
 - talked with someone they did not know
- Adaptive Functioning
 - no significant differences

Results

Item Mean Rank Significant Difference $p < .01$	Spanish speaking	English speaking
Future Prospects		
complete additional education past high school	27.71	41.10
Social Competency		
spent time with friend	26.10	46.03
went out on date	26.18	43.47
went out in public	27.32	42.30
talked with someone they did not know	27.00	41.00

Conclusion

- Difference in future perception due to differences in educational opportunities between USA and Mexico
- Differences in view of social competency outside of family relations

Discussion

- All cultures stereotype based on appearance and stereotypes depend on cultural values (Thompson & Kent, 2001)
- Family support system critical factor in burn survivor psychological outcome (Blakeney et al., 1990)

Discussion

- Limitations of study
 - Use of language to measure acculturation
 - Only maternal report
 - Size of sample
- Further study to investigate possible cultural differences in parental concerns for social competency