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"Validation of the Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Questionnaire"

A study proposal

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ABSTRACT

Background: Although mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) accounts for most US Pediatric head trauma, few studies have focused on the mildly injured. The lack of a validated outcome instrument for children with mTBI has prompted us to design and develop the mild traumatic brain injury questionnaire (mTBIQ): a telephone questionnaire targeted to parents/guardians for the assessment and follow-up of children, 2-10 years of age with mTBI. The mTBIQ consists of two parts: a self-administered baseline mTBIQ (B-mTBIQ) and follow-up mTBIQ (F-mTBIQ) administered by telephone. **Objectives:** 1. Assess discriminate validity of the mTBIQ by comparing an mTBI group with an orthopedic injury group regarding the change in the total score from baseline to follow-up using the B-mTBIQ and the F-mTBIQ. 2. Assess construct (concept) validity of the mTBIQ through correlation analyses between similar domains of the mTBIQ and the Child Health Questionnaire-Parent Form 50 (CHQ-PF50), such as behavior, school performance, and family functioning. **Methods:** A prospective observational study. A total of 240 children, 2-10 years of age, divided into two groups: an mTBI group and an orthopedic injury group as a control will be recruited from the ED. The parent/guardian will be requested to fill out the B-mTBIQ and CHQ-PF50. Three months following the injury, a trained patient enroller, blinded to the group assignment, will call the parent/ guardian to administer the F-mTBIQ and the telephone version of the CHQ-PF50. **Analysis:** The change in the total score of all domains of the mTBIQ and the CHQ-PF50 from baseline to follow-up will be calculated and correlation analyses between similar domains of the mTBIQ and the CHQ-PF50 will be performed.