

PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES OF PEDIATRIC ACUPUNCTURE

A Capstone Project
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ABSTRACT

The Problem: The incidence of chronic health conditions among children in the United States is rapidly growing. It has become increasingly important to provide preventative medicine to the pediatric population, because many of their health concerns will follow them into adulthood or may lead to other health conditions. There is an increase in evidence that prevention and early intervention can prevent or diminish health problems among adults. Utilization of acupuncture among the pediatric population can play a major role in prevention. However, acupuncture is hardly used among children in the United States.

Method: A descriptive survey was administered to 70 acupuncture patients recruited by local San Francisco Bay Area acupuncturists. The instrumentation used in the study was a researcher-designed study with participant answering either 17 or 19 online questions depending on whether their child does or does not receive acupuncture.

Results: The study had an inadequate sample size for the findings to be generalized to the San Francisco Bay Area; however, the findings are consistent with other literature regarding the parental perspective of pediatric acupuncture. The study suggests that there is a need for increased education for parents on the benefits and uses of pediatric acupuncture. Parents that already use acupuncture appear to have limited information on the topic, and as a profession it is our job to accurately educate

the public. There is a need for more specific research in the field of pediatric acupuncture regarding behavioral problems, respiratory conditions, and pediatric acupuncture safety and efficacy.

Keywords: Pediatric Acupuncture, Acupuncture, Parental Perspective of Acupuncture.