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Who's my child's main doctor?

Caregiver Perceptions of Teaching Teams

Jonathan Ermer, MD; Shelby Chesbro, MD; Jessica Boerner, MD; Jacqueline Walker, MD MHPE; Joy Solano, MD MHPE

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Background

- Patients and their caregivers do not know who their doctors are
- Knowing your doctor has been shown to improve communication, increase patient satisfaction, and improve patient safety
- Personal relationships with patients and their caregivers may increase resident autonomy
- Large academic teaching teams conducting family-centered rounds (FCR) increase complexity of communication/relationship-building
- A previous study with adult patients reported the intern was seen as the "main doctor" by most patients; no study in pediatrics thus far
- **Objective:** Identify who pediatric caregivers identify as their child's "main doctor" and person in charge of their child's care team after an FCR encounter

Results

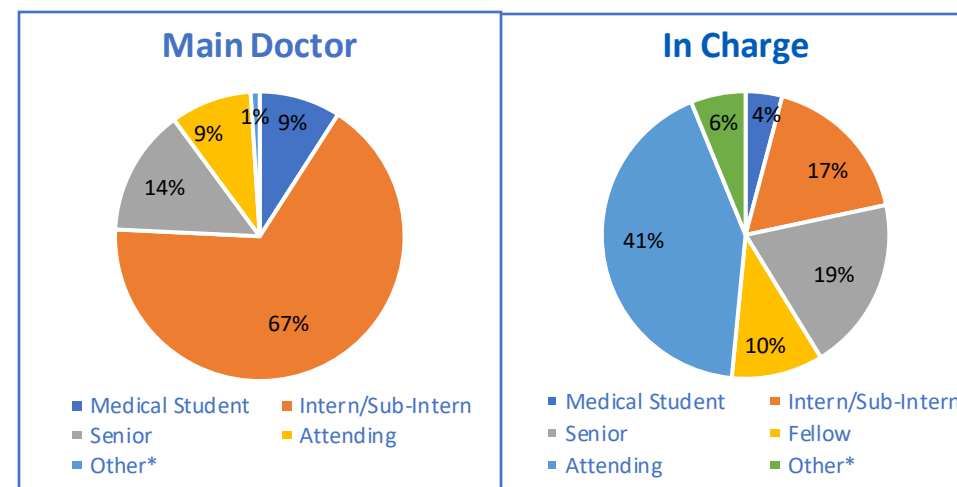
| Demographics | Freq (N=99) | % |
|---|---|-----|
| Patient Age Range: 3 weeks to 17 years | Mean: 4.6 years Median: 3 years | - |
| Gender (F) | 47 | 48% |
| Language Spoken (English) | 94 | 96% |
| Top 3 Diagnoses | Bronchiolitis Pneumonia Failure to thrive | - |
| Complex Chronic Conditions | | |
| 0 | 55 | 56% |
| 1 | 29 | 29% |
| 2 | 7 | 7% |
| >2 | 8 | 8% |
| Prior Admissions | | |
| 0 | 55 | 56% |
| 1 | 23 | 23% |
| >1 | 21 | 21% |
| Consultants Involved in Care | | |
| 0 | 47 | 47% |
| 1 | 22 | 22% |
| >1 | 30 | 30% |

Discussion

- Most caregivers (67%) selected the intern as their child's main doctor, similar to findings in the adult study
- Caregivers varied in who they thought was in charge of their child's care team
- Almost half of caregivers did not know their child would be cared for by a large team including trainees
- Limitations: small sample size, single institution, varied interpretation of the term "main doctor"
- Future directions: multi-institution study, assess effects of main doctor and team leader identification on resident sense of autonomy, improve families' understanding of their care team and the dynamics of a teaching hospital

Methods

- Prospective cohort study, convenience sample of caregivers admitted to PHM teaching teams
- Brief survey administered to caregivers after FCR on their child
- Caregivers shown masked photographs of all members of the rounding team and asked to identify main doctor and doctor in charge
- Demographic data recorded from chart with permission: age, gender, number of complex chronic conditions, number of lifetime admissions, length of stay, and number of involved consultants
- Descriptive statistics and chi-square analysis performed
- Approved by Children's Mercy IRB



*Other: includes "My doctor is not pictured" and "I don't know"

| Did the caregiver | Yes |
|--|-----|
| Know the patient would be cared for by a large team? | 51% |
| Know there would be trainees on the care team? | 56% |

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