



Madhumita Sinha, MD
Recipient of the Ken Graff Young Investigator
Research Award
American Academy of Pediatrics
2003 National Conference & Exhibition

Evaluation of Non-pharmacological Methods of Pain and Anxiety Management for Laceration Repair in the Pediatric Emergency Department

A study proposal

*For the American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Emergency Medicine,
Ken Graff Young Investigator Grant Program*

ABSTRACT

Use of simple non-pharmacological interventions such as distraction, has been shown to be a powerful adjunctive in reducing pain and anxiety among children with chronic conditions. However, there are no controlled studies evaluating the application of these interventions for minimizing acute pain in the pediatric emergency department (ED). **Objective:** The objective of the proposed study is to assess the effectiveness of distraction techniques in reducing the sensory and affective components of pain, and pain distress among pediatric patients undergoing laceration repair in the ED. **Methods:** Children between 6-18 years of age presenting to the ED for laceration repair and fulfilling eligibility criteria will be randomly assigned to an intervention arm or no-intervention arm. Children in the intervention arm will be given a choice of distractors during laceration repair. Quantitative measures of the somatic and affective component of pain and pain distress (as perceived by the parent) will be assessed by using the 7- point Faces Pain Scale (FPS), State Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children (STAIC) and a Visual Analog Scale (VAS), respectively, before and after laceration repair. To determine if children in the intervention group experience less pain and anxiety compared to the control group, multiple regression analysis and analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) will be performed. The total number of patients who will have to be recruited in this study for adequate power is estimated to be 180. The study is expected to be completed over a period of seven months.