ABSTRACT# 19

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Title: Referral to Early Intervention: Factors Contributing to Completing an Evaluation.
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Background: Early Intervention (EI) promotes early childhood development but remains an underutilized program. No previous study has examined factors influencing the completion of an evaluation, which occurs after a referral. Our study examined a minority, underserved population to examine characteristics that affect this critical step before receiving EI services.

Methods: Subjects were referred from an inner-city pediatric primary care clinic for EI evaluation from 3/1/15 to 4/30/16. We included children who were < 3 years of age at the time of referral, received pediatric care at the clinic, and were referred for EI. Independent variables abstracted from the medical record included demographic (e.g., gender, race), maternal (e.g., depression, substance use), child (e.g., history of a chronic illness, number of missed primary care appointments), and referral (e.g., referral through surveillance/screening, communication concerns, medical concerns) characteristics. A multivariate logistic regression model was used to determine the predictors for completing an evaluation.

Results: Of 195 children referred to EI, 64.6\% completed an EI evaluation; the average age was 18.5 (SD 7.6) months at first referral. Age, language, and a chronic medical illness were associated affecting the likelihood of a completed evaluation (Table 1). For every additional month of age at the initial referral, a child was 6\% less likely to complete an evaluation (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 0.94; 95\% confidence interval [CI], 0.90-0.98; \(p=0.007\)). A child coming from a English speaking family was half as likely to complete an evaluation (aOR=0.51, [CI], 0.26-0.99; \(p=0.04\)). Lastly, the child having a chronic medical illness at the time of referral more than doubled the chances of completion of EI evaluation (aOR=2.64, [CI], 1.37-5.09; \(p=0.004\)).

Conclusions: Our study found 3 factors that affected the likelihood of completing a referral: age, being from a English speaking family, and a child having a history of chronic medical illness. These factors have not been previously described in the literature and represent important characteristics that influence follow through for the EI process. These findings can help guide clinicians to target families more vulnerable to incomplete follow through for EI.
Table: Final Multi-Variable Logistic Regression Model of Predictors for Completion of an Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictors</th>
<th>Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>( P )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, 1-month increase</td>
<td>0.94 (0.90-0.98)</td>
<td>.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English speaking</td>
<td>0.51 (0.26-0.99)</td>
<td>.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child, chronic medical history</td>
<td>2.64 (1.37-5.09)</td>
<td>.004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Word Count: 337