Introduction

The development of hip displacement and dislocation in children with cerebral palsy (CP) is well documented in the literature [1, 2]. The progression is from a normal hip at birth to a displaced hip as early as 2-3 years [3]. Hip displacement/dislocation and its resulting pain can have a huge negative impact on care-giving, participation, activity, sitting ability and sleep [4, 5]. Management of hip displacement/dislocation primarily involves medication and surgery. Clinically, positioning in lying, sitting, standing and walking is used pre and post hip surgery to address many goals such as participation in activities, self care, sleeping and comfort. The role of positioning for prevention and management of hip displacement and/or dislocation is emerging. The objective of this poster is to illustrate a clinical resource tool that integrates GMFCS levels, ages from infancy to skeletal maturity and positioning interventions. The resource is based on research evidence and expert opinion.

Research Evidence

As a clinical team we reviewed the evidence of positioning as a treatment approach for the prevention of hip displacement and/or dislocation. Our research question was:

Among children with CP does "positioning" affect the hip development?

The research evidence is insufficient to demonstrate a strong causation between positioning and hip development. This is due to the relatively low numbers of studies, the mostly moderate and weak quality of the studies and the low level of the study designs. The “traffic light” code and state of the evidence classification is yellow [6].

The traffic light designation of yellow is symbolic, indicating insufficient evidence and an ongoing need to measure outcomes.

Poster References


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