Implementation of a Caregiver-Focused Educational Intervention to Improve Knowledge and Competency for Managing Adrenal Crisis in Patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

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Objectives

- Discuss background and significance of adrenal crisis (AC) education and management in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)
- Discuss project purpose, aims, and methods
- Review project results and implications.

Introduction

- Risk of AC in DMD patients
- Untreated AC can lead to hypoglycemia, hypotension, cardiovascular collapse, and death
- Paucity of literature in DMD population

Background of the Clinical Problem

- The 2018 DMD Care Considerations
 - Specific AC-related recommendations
- Baseline data in clinic
- Implementation requires change in practice
 - Caregiver
 - Providers



Project Aims

- 1) Evaluate if a caregiver-focused educational intervention improves knowledge of AC management
- 2) Determine the number of iterations required for caregivers to demonstrate injection competency
- 3) Determine if there is an increase in prescription rates of emergency hydrocortisone following provider training



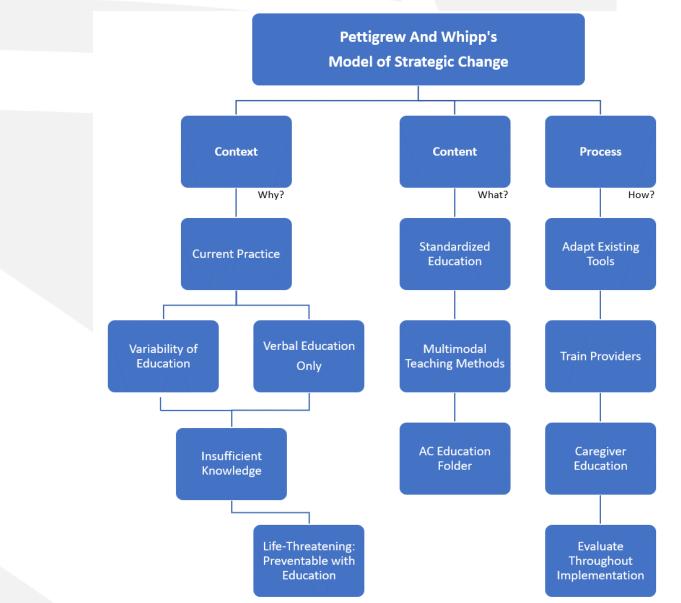




Review of the Literature

- Despite prior education, patients had inadequate understanding of preventing AC
- Inadequate knowledge regarding how to administer emergency hydrocortisone injection
- Verbal education alone is insufficient
- Effectiveness of teach-back method

Translation Framework



Methods

- Design: Quality improvement pre-post study
- Sample: caregivers of patients with DMD and neurology providers at an academic medical center in the mid-Atlantic

Methods

- Intervention: Education sessions with each caregiver and provider
 - Caregivers: AC and Injection training
 - Providers: PowerPoint presentation and quick reference

Data Collection

- Knowledge questionnaire pre and post caregiver education
- Injection Competency: Checklist
- Rate of prescriptions by providers via chart review

Statistical Analysis

- Aim 1: Wilcoxon signed-rank test
- Aims 2 & 3: Descriptive statistics



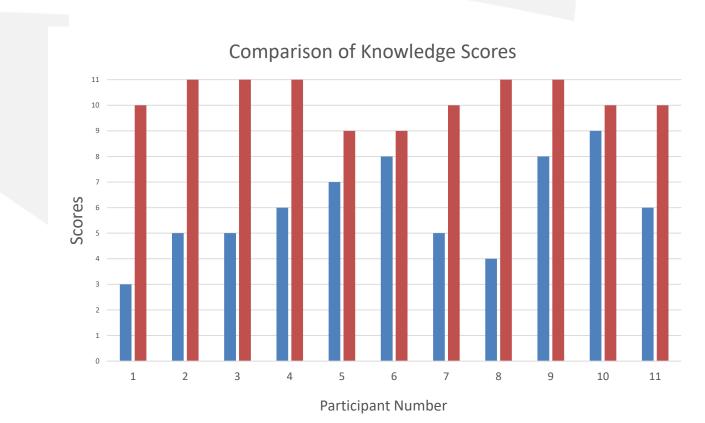
Results

• Caregiver Demographics

Caregiver Demographics	(<i>N</i> =11)
Age, n (%)	
21 - 30 years old	2 (18.2)
31 - 40 years old	6 (54.5)
41 - 50 years old	3 (27.3)
Sex, n (%)	
Male	4 (36.4)
Female	7 (63.6)
Relationship to patient, n (%)	
Parent	10 (90.9)
Legal Guardian	1 (9.1)
Highest level of education, n (%)	
High school diploma/GED	3 (27.3)
Associate's degree	3 (27.3)
Bachelor's degree	3 (27.3)
Master's degree	2 (18.2)

Results

• Aim 1

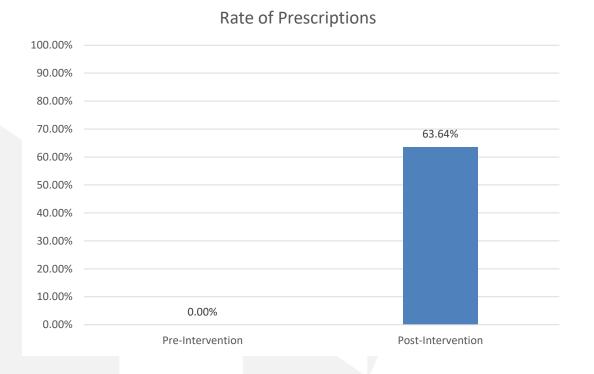




Post_Total

Results

- Aim 2: All caregivers demonstrated injection competency in one iteration
- Aim 3:



Discussion

- Results were consistent with the existing literature
 - Multimodal education improves knowledge and competency
- Provider presentation and a visual reminder in the clinic space supported increase in emergency Rx rate
- Strengths and Limitations

Conclusions

- Swift implementation will protect from the life-threatening complications of AC
- Future Research
 - A standardized education for DMD
 - Studies that compare the effects of different teaching approaches
 - Frequency of education
 - Barriers to implementation

Translation into Practice

- Dissemination
 - Nursing leadership
 - The Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
 - Greater DMD community
- Sustainability
 - AC champion in the clinic
 - Share AC education resources to department

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Thank you!

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