Public Abstract

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Title:CONSTRUCTING A GROUNDED THEORY OF PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE TREATMENT AND CARE OF CHILDREN WITH TYPE-1 DIABETES

This was a study of fathers' involvement in the treatment and care of children with type-1 diabetes. The ultimate goal of this study was to find out what factors influenced paternal involvement in the treatment and care of children with type-1 diabetes. Fifteen fathers of children with type-1 diabetes were interviewed for this study. Fathers described several family processes (e.g., navigating the emotional waters, balancing work and family demands, building trust within the parental treatment team, and encouraging child responsibility for treatment) that influenced how they shared the responsibility with their families for the care and treatment of the children with type-1 diabetes. Fathers also were categorized into several types of involvement (e.g., not involved, helper, equal partner, treatment monitor, primary caregiver) based on their reports of how they shared the responsibility for treatment. The main contribution of this research was that information was obtained about what motivates fathers' involvement in their children's treatment. This information can be used by family medical practitioners to create new methods for encouraging fathers to be involved in treatment.