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Population-based Surveillance of Outcomes, Needs, and Well-being of Children and Adolescents with Congenital Heart Defects

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Population-based Surveillance of Outcomes, Needs, and Well-being of Children and Adolescents with Congenital Heart Defects 2022-03077

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Comment from Bragg, Emma

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General Comment

Congenital Heart Defects are often needing early intervention support from multiple professions, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, developmental therapy, and more. Population-based surveillance of the outcomes, needs, and well-being of children with CHD can inform these professions and beyond to be better prepared and knowledgeable of the current therapy practices and future intervention strategies. Occupational therapy is especially interested in developmental milestones being met, social outcomes, mental and physical well-being, and medical fragility for children in this population. Especially considering critical congenital heart defects can inform future policies and standards of care in NICUs and state-funded early intervention programs. A small study involving 18 infants between the ages of one and 18 months old found that there was a positive correlation between CHD and gross motor delays (Paula et al., 2020). With a new method of collecting data on CHD populations, more information like this can be obtained to improve intervention strategies for occupational therapy practitioners in inpatient, early intervention, school-based and outpatient settings that can produce life-long impacts in participation and well-being.

Paula, Í. R., Oliveira, J. C., Batista, A. C., Nascimento, L. C., Araújo, L. B., Ferreira, M. B., Gomes, M. B., & Azevedo, V. M. (2020). Influência da Cardiopatia Congênita no Desenvolvimento neuropsicomotor De Lactentes. *Fisioterapia e Pesquisa*, 27(1), 41–47. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1809-2950/18039627012020>