

Clinician Perspectives on the Acceptability of Pediatric Autism Therapies

A Mixed-Methods Study

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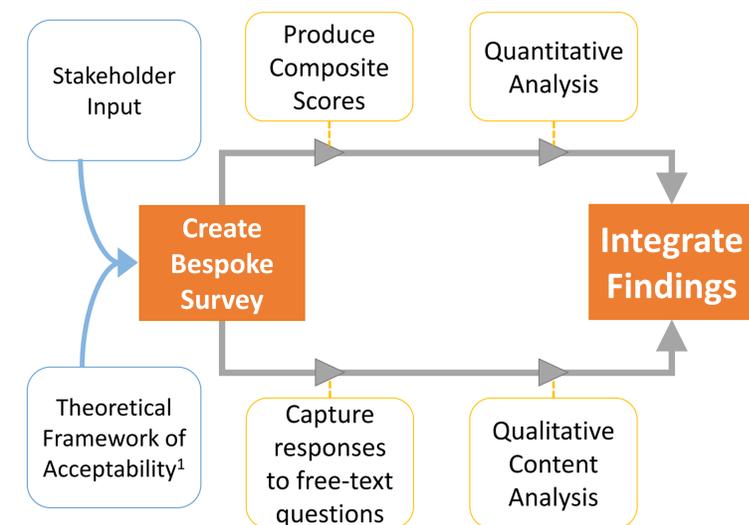
BACKGROUND

- Autistic children may engage with different therapies, such as:
 - Occupational Therapy (OT)
 - Speech-language Pathology (SLP) services
 - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)-based therapies
 - Physiotherapy (PT)
- There are varying levels of evidence supporting these therapies and some autistic self-advocates are critical of certain approaches
- There is limited information on how clinicians perceive these therapies**

OBJECTIVES

- To explore how perceived acceptability of pediatric autism therapies varies amongst clinicians
- To explore what demographic factors are associated with higher perceived acceptability

METHODS



1. Sekhon, M., Cartwright, M., & Francis, J. J. (2017). Acceptability of healthcare interventions: an overview of reviews and development of a theoretical framework. *BMC Health Services Research*, 17(1), 88-88. doi:10.1186/s12913-017-2031-8

Clinicians held varied perspectives on OT, ABA, SLP services and PT; however, there were criticisms of the **ethics** and **evidence** supporting some services.

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RESULTS



Overall Score	B	95% CI for B		SE B	β	R ²	ΔR ²
		LL	UL				
Model						0.101	0.08*
Constant	169.95**	160.98	179.01	4.65			
Percent of Autistic Clients	-.17	-.30	-.04	.07	-2.63*		
Delivery of ABA, SLP services, OT, PT	8.38	1.28	15.49	3.58	.233*		

Table 1. Multiple Linear Regression for the Overall Composite Score (n = 98)
 Note. B = unstandardized regression coefficient; CI = confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit; SE B = standard error of the coefficient; β = standardized coefficient, R² = coefficient of determination; ΔR² = adjusted R². *p < 0.05, **p < 0.001

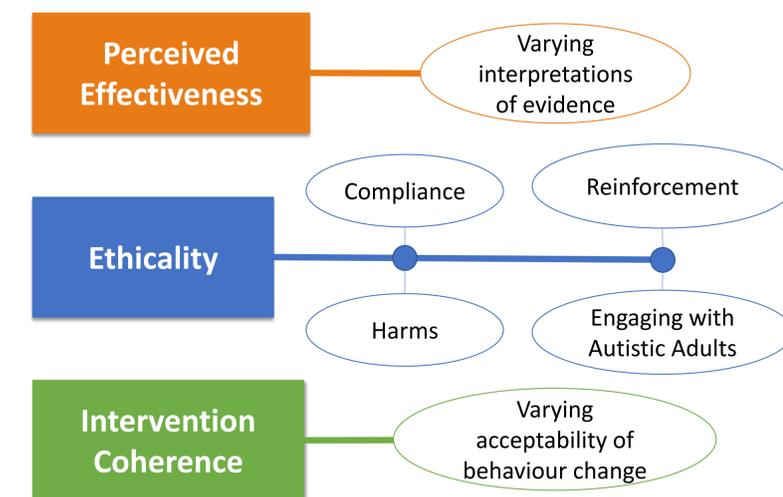


Figure 1. Results of Qualitative Content Analysis by Constructs of the Theoretical Framework of Acceptability¹

CONCLUSIONS

- Criticisms of the ethicality and effectiveness of services were identified, often relating to the ethics of ABA-based approaches
- Delivering one of these therapies and working with a higher percent of autistic clients may impact clinicians' perspectives on the acceptability

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