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Family Functioning in Children with Chronic Illness Compared with Healthy Controls: A Critical Review

Authors	McClellan, Catherine B.;Cohen, Lindsey L.
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Table 1. Summary of Reviewed Studies

<i>Author</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Measures of Family Functioning</i>	<i>Primary findings</i>
Goldberg et al. (1990)	- 15 families with an infant with CF - 45 families of infants with congenital heart disease (CHD) - 50 healthy control families <u>age range:</u> 1-9 months	Parenting Stress Index (parent report)	- CF and CHD families reported significantly greater stress resulting from overall parenting stress than healthy control families. Additionally, the researchers found that the parents of the CF children reported the highest levels of stress resulting from child demandingness.
Cowen et al., (1985)	- 41 parents of children with CF - 31 parents of healthy children <u>age range:</u> 2 to 5 years	Family Assessment Measure (FAM) (parent report)	- Fathers of CF children rated their family functioning as significantly better than the fathers of healthy controls. - FAM social desirability subscale elevated for both mother and father report. - Denial subscale elevated for mother of CF children
Sawyer (1992)	- 32 families with child with CF - 32 healthy control families <u>age range:</u> 4 months to 3 years	Feetham Family Functioning Survey (mother report)	- Mothers in CF group reported significantly less available time to spend with their spouses.
Spieth et al., (2001)	- 29 families with a child with CF - 29 health control families <u>age range:</u> 2 to 5 years old	McMaster Mealtime Family Interaction Coding System (MICS) (observation of family mealtime)	- Functioning of CF families was significantly lower than that of healthy control families
Lewis & Khaw (1982)	- 31 families with child with CF - 26 families with a child with asthma - 27 healthy control families <u>age range:</u> 7 – 12 years	Family Adaptability and Cohesiveness Evaluation Scales (FACES) (mother report)	- No significant differences between the family functioning of the three groups

Blair et al., (1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 27 families of adolescents with CF - 27 families of anorexic adolescents - 31 healthy control families 	<p>Family Assessment Measure (FAM) (parent and adolescent self-report) (Observational problem-solving task to assess the family functioning)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significantly more CF families were categorized as good problem solvers when compared to the healthy control families and families of anorexic adolescents. - No differences were found on the FAM between the three groups.
Hamlett et al., (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 healthy control families - 13 families with a child with type 1 diabetes - 17 families with a child with asthma <p><u>age range:</u> 6 to 14 years</p>	<p>Family Environment Scale (FES) (mother report)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant group differences on any of the family functioning scales.
Standen et al., (1985)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 families with a child with type 1 diabetes - 20 healthy control families <p><u>age range:</u> 4 to 12 years</p>	<p>Family Environment Scale (FES) (parent report)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents of children with type 1 diabetes described their families as being less achievement oriented (i.e., concerned about achievements at school, work) than did the parents of physically healthy children.
Frank et al., (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 families with a child with type 1 diabetes IDDM - 27 families with a child with children and adolescents with JRA - 62 healthy control families <p><u>age range:</u> 0 to 16 years.</p>	<p>Family Adaptability and Cohesion Scales (FACES III and FACES III-K for children under the age of 12) (parent and child report) Longitudinal study (4 assessments in a period of 18 months)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant differences between the illness groups.
Harris et al., (1991)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 families with child with JRA - 12 matched healthy control families <p><u>age range:</u> 6 to 11 years</p>	<p>Family Environment Scale (FES) (parent and child report)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant differences between the two groups on the Family Environment Scale.

Huygen et al., (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 47 families with a child with JRA - 52 healthy control families. <u>age range</u>: two age categories: ages 7 to 11 years (child group) and 12 to 16 years (adolescent group) 	FACES (parent and child report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families with JRA children reported higher ratings of cohesion and lower adaptation when compared to families with healthy children. - Adolescents with JRA reported lower levels of cohesion than did their parents. - In the adolescent group there were no significant differences between parents' report of cohesion for JRA and healthy control families. - No significant differences in parent reported levels of family functioning.
Gerhart et al., (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 64 families with a child with JRA - 64 matched healthy control families <u>age range</u>: 8 to 14 years old 	Family Environment Scale (FES) (parent report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant differences in parent reported levels of family functioning.
Noll et al., (1994)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32 families with a child with SCD - 40 matched healthy control families <u>age range</u>: 8 to 15 years old 	Family Environment Scale (FES) (caregiver report) Family Conflict Construct (caregiver report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant differences in parent reported levels of family functioning.
Midence et al., (1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 39 families with a child with SCD - 24 matched healthy control families <u>age range</u>: 6 to 16 years old 	Family Environment Scale (FES) (parent report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families of children with SCD reported more cohesion and less conflict.
Evans et al., (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 families with a child with hemophilia - 12 matched health control families <u>age range</u>: 4 to 15 years * all male 	Family Assessment Measure (FAM) (parent report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant differences in parent reported levels of family functioning.