

Poster presentation

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An in-depth analysis of young people's experience of their juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) once receiving Etanercept

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Background

At our institution a biologics clinic has been established to see specifically those children with JIA on anti-TNF treatment. It was through regular contact with these patients that it became apparent that some of these patients have difficult thoughts and concerns about biological therapies that are not being acknowledged fully. Little is published about the psychological responses of young people with JIA to success or failure of treatment and how they influence attitudes to future treatments.

Methods

An Interpretive Hermeneutic Phenomenological approach was used to allow in-depth examinations of the young people's personal accounts of their lived experiences. Data was obtained from 6 individuals (aged 10–14 yrs) with JIA, receiving anti-TNF therapy during a routine clinic appointment using audio-taped unstructured interviews aided by spider diagrams. The interviews were carried out with informed consent, after ethical approval was given. The data were analysed using Colazzi's method.

Results

Overall response as either positive or negative, hinged on perceived success of their biologic therapy and interestingly on their relationships with school friends.

Conclusion

This study will assist in providing these patients with a better package of care, by providing the clinician with a deeper insight into how young people view their biologic treatments. As one individual said "Enbrel is useless cus it

doesn't work for me. I don't get a say in anything. They pretend you do, but you still have to take the things. It's my body, but when I say I don't want it, they say I have to have it".