

Using Behavioural & Educational Methodologies in Survey-Type Needs Assessments

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ABSTRACT

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Poster Presentation

Purpose: To identify the knowledge and critical gaps in infant nutritional intolerance and allergy issues among Canadian family physicians as a foundation to effective educational program design.

Methods: This study employed an educational research design to investigate the clinical practice of physicians in the care of infant nutrition. Surveys that incorporated quantitative assessment, and pattern and gap analysis strategies were employed, and data was collected, triangulated, and analyzed (Tashakkori and Teddlie, 1998). These methods were employed to increase the reliability and validity of the results.

Results: Fifty physicians from across Canada completed the assessment, fielding a 60% response rate. The findings revealed that family physicians (a) struggle in discriminating infant nutritional allergies; (b) tend to refer to specialists for diagnosis and treatment; (c) seek to better understand lactose intolerance and allergies; and (d) seek to improve their abilities to recommend appropriate treatment. Based upon these results, a Continuing Health Education program was designed. Multiple educational strategies were employed to impact physician knowledge, confidence, and clinical decision-making regarding infant allergies.

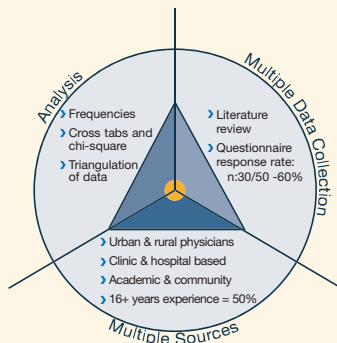
Conclusions: The CFCPC accredited program on infant allergies has been successfully delivered across Canada to family physicians, nurses, dieticians and pharmacists with evidence of practice change. Evaluations and attendance documents have supported the effectiveness of the need identification and program design. The methodology employed in the survey type needs assessment has proven to be a benefit beyond the scope of traditional surveys by capturing behavioural and attitudinal aspects of physician practice.

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OBJECTIVES

- 1 > To assess knowledge of Family Physicians for infant nutritional issues
 - > Lactose intolerance versus CMA
 - > IgE-mediated versus IgE non-mediated allergy
- 2 > To conduct a needs assessment that will meet the accreditation criteria of the CCFP
- 3 > To determine preferred educational formats

METHODOLOGY



CONCLUSION

- 1 > Create quality CME
 - > Value to a wide audience (family physicians, nurses, pharmacists)
 - > Increase knowledge
 - > Impact physician practice
- 2 > Capture behavioural and attitudinal aspects of physician practice

RESULTS

1 > Physician Position
Diagnosis and treatment of CMA, lactose intolerance, and IgE-mediated allergies

Interpretation

- > Satisfaction with practice
- > Desire to increase knowledge of diagnosis
- > Desire to increase knowledge of treatment
- > Difficulty with current guidelines

Not highly satisfied with practice in the area of infant nutrition
Desire more knowledge about diagnosis and treatment in infant nutrition
Not highly concerned with current guidelines
Difficulty with current guidelines

Data suggests: Readiness to learn in this area

2 > Diagnosis of Infant Nutritional Needs

Differentiate IgE-Mediated and Non IgE-mediated allergy

Diagnostic Needs Interpretation

	Present Level	Desired Level	GAP
Diagnose growth	3.57	4.62	1.05
Diagnose CMA	3.14	4.65	1.51
Diagnose Soy Protein Allergy	2.71	4.50	1.79
Select tests	2.59	4.56	1.97
Differentiate CMA from lactose intolerance	2.82	4.62	1.80
Diagnose IgE-mediated allergic reactions	2.59	4.52	1.93
Differentiate IgE-mediated vs Non-IgE-mediated allergy	2.37	4.44	2.07

Refer to Allergist
Give allergen
Skin test
RAST
Symptoms
Would not differentiate

Largest Gaps:

- > IgE-mediated allergic reactions
- > To discriminate IgE mediated vs IgE non-mediated allergies
- > To diagnose IgE mediated allergic reactions
- > To select appropriate tests
- > To differentiate CMA from lactose intolerance
- > To make appropriate referrals

3 > Treatment/ Management Needs
Interpretation

- > Selecting formula appropriate for IgE-mediated allergies
- > Discriminate indications for hydrolysed formulas
- > Selecting formula appropriate for gastroenteritis and galactosemia
- > Identifying formula appropriate for infantile colic

4 > Preferred Formats for CME
Interpretation

- > Participants are seeking knowledge and understanding of allergies in infant nutrition
- > Prefer Specialist (Allergist) explanation with use of cases to apply information
- > Some prefer (25%) discussion
- > Approximately half (43-41%) seek accredited programs