On parental self-efficacy in families with paediatric cataract and its clinical implications

This thesis comprises four scientific papers with the overall aim of understanding, exploring and explaining self-efficacy among parents of a child with paediatric cataract in order to promote self-management and improve clinical care. Through questionnaires and interviews, parents revealed that their self-efficacy, i.e. the belief in their ability to succeed in managing this new situation, is crucial for the child's visual outcome. All the parents emphasised that you do what you have to do to achieve a successful visual outcome for the child, as her/his future is at stake.

Parents go through a profound adaptation process throughout their child's visual trajectory.

As they are a self-evident part of the care of their child, the team needs to acknowledge that fatigue and uncertainty constitute a barrier to self-efficacy. This could be achieved by using a digital app, introducing a key worker and including other professions in the ophthalmological team in order to implement family-centred care.

The studies in this thesis all contribute to exploring and explaining self-efficacy among parents of a child with paediatric cataract in order to promote self-management by providing clinical implications. It might be possible to generalize the findings to other parents of children with visual impairments.

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