

# Evaluation of screening questionnaires for identifying traumatic stress reactions in young injured children

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*Objectives:* To examine the feasibility and psychometric properties of three tools for screening for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) risk in young injured children: (1) Young Child PTSD Screen (YCPS), (2) Pediatric Emotional Distress Scale (PEDS) and (3) Young Child PTSD Risk Screener (YCPRS).

*Methods:* 100 parents of young injured children (aged 1-6 years) completed the screens within 2 weeks and at 1 and 6 months post accident. The Diagnostic Infant Preschool Assessment was completed at 1 and 6 months. *Results:* The YCPS and PEDS both demonstrated promise as brief and cost-effective screening tools for identifying young children at risk of developing PTSD after an accident. *Conclusions:* Screening is consistently recommended as a method for identifying those who should be monitored for risk or referred to treatment, however there are currently no empirically validated PTSD screening tools available for young children and it is yet to be determined whether a screening program for young children is feasible in pediatric hospitals. This presentation will discuss these issues and how the screens tested in this study may be used in prevention and stepped-care intervention programs.

## Key Words

Young children; Posttraumatic stress disorder; screening.

## Nominated Stream for Oral Presentations

- Medical
- Nursing
- Allied Health
- Scientific

## Nominated Stream for Poster Presentations

- Care
- Prevention
- Research