



# In Motion

Highlighting Articles Advancing Pain Research in Canada and the World

## Featured article:

Killackey, T., Baerg, K., Dick, B., Lamontagne, C., Poolacherla, R., Finley, G. A., Noel, M., Birnie, K. A., Choinière, M., Pagé, M. G., Dassieu, L., Lacasse, A., Laloo, C., Poulin, P., Ali, S., Battaglia, M., Campbell, F., Harris, L., Mohabir, V., Nishat, F., Benayon, M., Jordan, I., & Stinson, J. (2022). **Experiences of Pediatric Pain Professionals Providing Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Study.** *Children*, 9(2), 230.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/children9020230>

## Key insights from the study:

- **Provider Adaptation:** Describes how healthcare providers quickly adapted to new methods of delivering care during the COVID-19 pandemic, including virtual consultations and telehealth, to continue supporting their pediatric chronic pain patients.
- **Healthcare System Changes:** Highlights both positive and negative changes in healthcare delivery, including triaging care and limitations on access to services. Providers faced significant challenges such as technological issues, cost-related difficulties, and maintaining patient privacy and effective care delivery.
- **Impact of Shift to Virtual Care:** Explores the rapid transition to virtual care during the pandemic, noting both benefits and limitations. Providers observed improvements in access to services for some patients, while others experienced increased anxiety and limited interaction. The study also highlights the potential for future hybrid models of care.



Quick Article Link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9067/9/2/230>

## What happened?

Researchers conducted a qualitative descriptive study, interviewing 21 healthcare providers from various roles, clinical settings, and geographic locations across Canada. The study aimed to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pediatric chronic pain care, focusing on changes in service delivery, patient outcomes, and the shift to virtual care.

## Why is it important?

This study provides valuable insights into how the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped pediatric chronic pain care. Understanding the dual impact on patients, systemic changes, and the rapid shift to virtual care helps inform future healthcare policies and practices. The findings emphasize the need to address socioeconomic disparities and ensure equitable access to care.

## What now?

The study suggests that while virtual care was essential during the pandemic, there were both benefits and challenges. Moving forward, healthcare providers should aim to retain the positive aspects of virtual care while addressing the issues. This involves creating effective hybrid models that combine online and in-person care, ensuring all families have access to necessary services, and supporting healthcare professionals with clear guidelines and training. By doing so, the quality of care for children with chronic pain can be enhanced during crises and beyond.



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