

How Do Parents of Children with Physical Disabilities Search for Information? a Qualitative Study



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Information provision insufficient

Evidence suggests that parents of children with disabilities feel that not all information needs are currently being met, but it is not yet clear how parents try to fill these information gaps.

How do parents fill the information gap?

We examined the way parents search and value information from different sources.

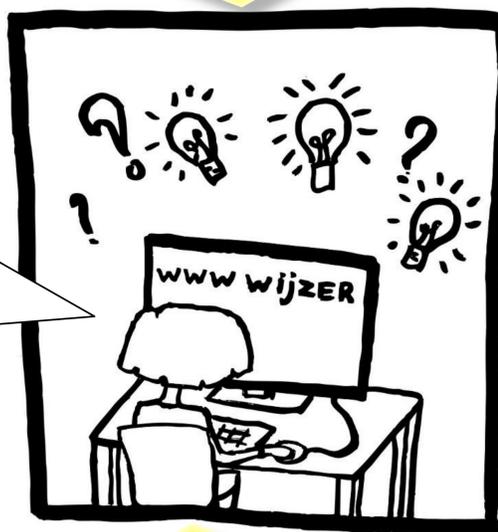
Parents search the Internet for information, and compare information of different websites

Parents have different and ever-changing information needs on a wide variety of topics



"just when I thought I had everything under control, new questions rise"

"I searched different websites and if the information matches, it's probably true"



Information searching and information found on the internet are rarely discussed with physicians

Internet is a widely used source for experience-based information

"to tell me not to search for information online is not really of this age, of course I still searched the internet"



Methods: Qualitative interviews

- Fifteen qualitative semi-structured interviews were held to explore the strategies of participating parents concerning information needs.
- A thematic analysis approach was performed to analyse the interviews.

Clinical message

- Mind the importance of additional information resources
- Guide parents in their search for information
- Acknowledge the existence of internet and use it for the benefit of parents