

Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Title:

Male Sexual and Reproductive Health in Cystic Fibrosis: A Concept Mapping Study

Lay Title:

Male Sexual and Reproductive Health in Cystic Fibrosis: A Concept Mapping Study

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What was your research question?

This study explored the SRH topics and outcomes valued by MwCF, their parents and partners, and CF healthcare providers. Participants generated statements when asked to respond to the brainstorming prompt, "List all the important sexual and reproductive health care topics for adolescent and adult males with cystic fibrosis."

Why is this important?

Males with cystic fibrosis (MwCF) face significant general and disease-specific sexual and reproductive health (SRH) concerns that are not typically addressed in routine clinical care. Additionally, there is a lack of appropriate cystic-fibrosis (CF)-specific SRH educational resources for MwCF and their family members.

What did you do?

We utilized concept mapping (CM) to lead participants through brainstorming, sorting, and rating activities. Eighty-nine participants (32 MwCF; 6 parents; 9 partners; and 42 providers) generated statements when asked to respond to the brainstorming prompt, "List all the important sexual and reproductive health care topics for adolescent and adult males with cystic fibrosis." Next, 69 participants sorted the list of 125 brainstormed statements into groups intuitive to them and named each group. Then, 65 participants rated the importance



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of each statement from a range of 1-very unimportant to 5-very important. During an interpretation meeting, 20 participants participated in group discussion to evaluate SRH clusters and identify key patient-centered outcomes for each cluster.

What did you find?

We found that SRH concerns can be challenging but are highly valued among MwCF. Participants highlighted the importance of improving overall knowledge, shared decision making, and communication between MwCF, their parents and partners, and CF providers. Many participants focused on future goals with statements surrounding fertility and family building.

What does this mean and reasons for caution?

These results may inform the content and delivery of new SRH interventions in the CF care setting. Our results also reaffirm the importance of patient-provider communication and shared decision making.

What's next?

A critical next step is to engage a wide range of healthcare providers for this population and develop SRH educational resources and communication skills training for MwCF, parents/partners, and CF providers.

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