

A phenomenological approach to understanding the impact of chronic ear disease on wellbeing in young people: patient and carer perspectives

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Background

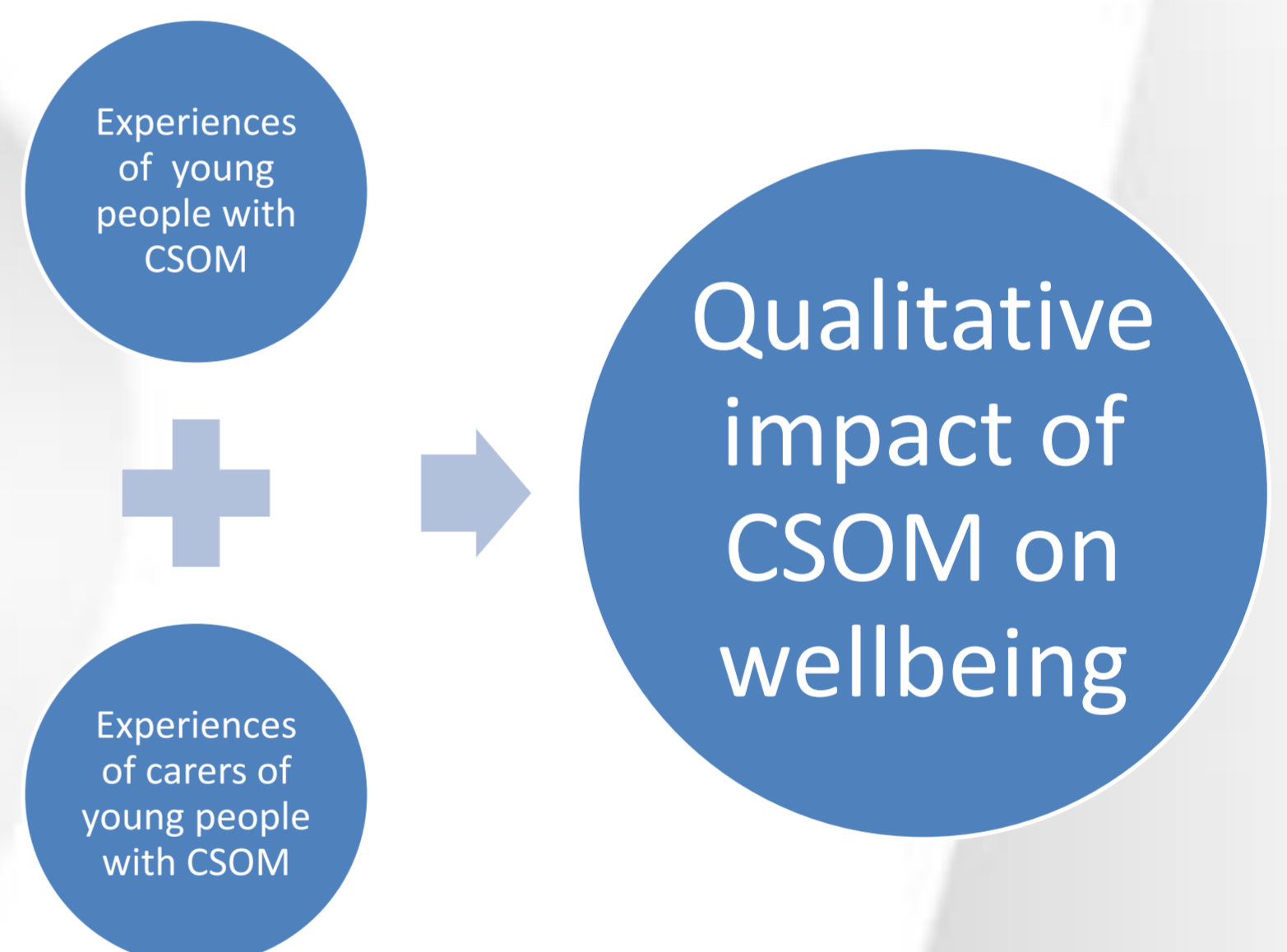
- Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (CSOM) is a chronic inflammation of the middle ear which can develop from the acute condition Otitis Media (OM), usually in childhood. Symptoms include ear pain, an odorous discharge and hearing loss which often require extensive medical intervention (WHO, 2004)
- Previous research has largely focused on functional outcomes of CSOM using quantitative methods and has not addressed the qualitative impact of CSOM on wellbeing and quality of life (Baumann, Gerendas, Plinkert & Praetorius, 2011; Brouwer et al. 2005).
- Understanding the broader impact of CSOM on wellbeing and quality of life is vital to identify the psychosocial support needs of this group.

Aim

- To qualitatively explore the impact of living with CSOM on wellbeing in young people and their parents/guardian

Method

- Up to 10 young people aged 12-18 years with a diagnosis of CSOM and their primary caregivers will be recruited from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Face to face semi-structured interviews will be conducted simultaneously around the same broad topics:
 - History of CSOM
 - Meaning of CSOM and health/illness
 - Impact of CSOM on identity and daily life
 - Coping with CSOM



Analysis

- Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) will be conducted on interview transcripts.
- Initial findings will be shared with the young people and their primary caregivers.

Implications

- Findings from the current study will lead to an in-depth understanding of the impact of CSOM on wellbeing and quality of life.
- This knowledge will enable ENT clinics and other medical teams to address the psychosocial support needs of this group and ultimately improve patient care.

References

- Baumann, I., Gerendas, B., Plinkert, P. K., & Praetorius, M. (2011). General and disease-specific quality of life in patients with chronic suppurative otitis media - a prospective study. *Health & Quality of Life Outcomes*, 9(1), 48-53.
- Brouwer, C. M., Rovers, M. M., Maillé, A. R., Veenhoven, R. H., Grobbee, D. E., Sanders, E. M., & Schilder, A. M. (2005). The impact of recurrent acute otitis media on the quality of life of children and their caregivers. *Clinical Otolaryngology*, 30(3), 258-265.
- WHO (2004). Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media. Burden of Illness and Management Options. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/activities/hearing_care/otitis_media.pdf