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## Children's Understanding of Informed Assents in Research Studies

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The assent procedure reflects an effort to enable the minor to understand, to the degree they are capable, what their participation in the decision-making process would involve. Assent is about respecting children's developing capacity, which means assisting them in understanding their condition and treatment at a developmentally appropriate level and involving them in appropriate decision-making tasks (1).

**Aims:** To evaluate the minors' ability to understand the information provided to them when obtaining assent, and to evaluate the opinion of the parents regarding the importance of asking the child's assent.

**Methods:** The sample included a total of 52 minors aged between 10 and 17 years, who underwent exercise echocardiogram. The Quality of Informed Consent is divided into two parts: part A was used to measure objective understanding, and part B to measure subjective understanding. **Results:** The results show that the minors have a high capacity to understand the information given to them when asking for assent.

A positive relationship was found between the two parts of the questionnaire. No statistically significant relationship was found between age and sex and part A and part B or between both age groups (<14 years old and ≥ 14 years old) and the measure. 96.6% of parents consider the assent an advantage for the child's acceptance of health care. The opinion of the parents is not related to the age, sex, or level of schooling;

**Conclusion:** Minors showed a substantial level of understanding regarding the information. The parents considered the implementation of assent fundamental to the child's acceptance of health care.

## Biography

Unguru, Y. Pediatric decision-making: informed consent, parental permission, and child assent. In: Diekema, D.; Mercurio, M.; Adam, M. Clinical Ethics in Pediatrics. A Case-Based Textbook. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 2011, pp.1-6, ISBN: 9781139142670.

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