

**Challenges Experienced by Parents and Caregivers of
Children in Clubfoot Management at
Selected Centers in Dhaka, Bangladesh**

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ABSTRACT

The worldwide incidence of clubfoot is approximately 1 in 1,000 live births. Failure with the Ponseti method has been frequently attributed to noncompliance with the use of the orthosis after correction has been obtained (Roye D.P. Jr, Roye B.D., 2002). This is not a trivial issue, given the expense and the time (two to four years) that is required, as well as the psychosocial factors, such as the stigma of prolonged use of an orthosis, which have an impact on compliance (Dobbs et al., 2004).

Early and prompt identification of what parents perceive as treatment challenges may help physicians to better address these difficulties, ultimately improving patient care. This study seeks to explore the impressions, experiences, and degree of comprehension of parents regarding the Ponseti method.

Objective: The objective of the study was to identify the challenges experienced by parents and caregivers of children in clubfoot management at selected centers in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Methods: A cross sectional, descriptive study design was used. The sample consisted of 133 parents and caregiver of children with clubfoot. Data were collected from Walk for Life clinic at CRP, Mirpur, Dhaka and Center for the Rehabilitation of Paralyzed, Savar, Dhaka. Face to face interview was conducted with study subjects by using self-developed questionnaire. Data were analyzed by SPSS using descriptive and inferential statistics to identify and make association between challenges and compliance to treatment.

Result: The study sample consisted of 54 cases in casting phase and 79 cases in bracing phase. Out of 54 cases in casting phase, only 2 were non-compliant. Out of 79 cases in

bracing phase, 22 were non-compliant. It was found that parents and caregivers of children receiving treatment at WFL and CRP faced challenges in five sectors: knowledge and awareness, transportation, family support, attitude of health care professional, attitude and perception of parents towards child with FAB. Among the patients in bracing phase, 8.86% of the cases were unaware about attending regularly to treatment as said by Health Care Professional, 7.59% of the cases disagreed that they were aware that child should wear FAB all the time as required. 15% of the respondents disagreed to giving sufficient time to child for performing daily exercises.

In casting phase patients, 21% disagreed that treatment center was reachable. 27% disagreed that the transportation cost was affordable. Out of total patients attending CRP, 49% disagreed that treatment cost was affordable.

Among the patients in bracing phase, 43% disagreed that the treatment center was reachable, 38% disagreed that the transportation cost was affordable. Out of the total patients attending CRP, 53% said that the treatment cost was not affordable.

In casting phase 11.11% total respondents said that they disagreed that HCP gave enough details on future phases of treatment. 12.96% out of 100% respondents disagreed that HCP gave enough chance to talk about the problems and ask questions. Also 35.18% out of 100% thought that the waiting time was not reasonable.

In bracing phase, 50.64% out of 100% respondents said that the waiting time was not reasonable.

Key words: Ponseti, Clubfoot, Compliance.