

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND PRACTICES OF PARENTS
CONSULTING IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN DAVAO CITY
ON THE USE OF INFANT WALKERS**

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Background: Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) published an official statement and recommendation discouraging infant walker use. However, there is still rampant use and very little awareness on the adverse effects.

Objective: This study aims to determine the knowledge, practices, and attitudes of parents consulting in a tertiary hospital in Davao City on use of infant walkers.

Design: Cross-sectional research design

Subjects: Parent who has at least 1 child aged 2-5 years old

Methodology: Modified questionnaire adapted with permission from the study of Alessa was answered by 115 respondents from May to July 2021. Validated Cebuano and Tagalog translated questionnaire versions were also offered.

Statistical Analysis: Univariate analysis was used to tabulate the absolute and relative frequencies of socio-demographic characteristics and KAP responses. Binary logistics regression, Pearson Chi-square test, independent sample T-test, and Mann Whitney U test was used to determine the association of infant walker use to socio-demographics, knowledge responses, knowledge over-all score and attitude responses, respectively.

Results: Ninety-four respondents (81.7%) were infant walker users. Parents who work in non-medical field are more likely users. Single parents are less likely to use. Reasons for using were mostly because of beliefs that it promotes early walking. Eighteen percent of users had accidents recorded, mostly falling from height. Only two non-users were advised not to use infant walkers. Most respondents had poor knowledge and misconceptions regarding infant walkers. Parental attitude on use of infant walkers were positive. Users will continue to use infant walkers on future children and recommend its use to other mothers.

Conclusion: Results suggest that health education should be aimed at strengthening PPS recommendations against use and of further abandoning infant walkers. This should include raising awareness of walker-related hazards, discouraging use, acknowledging difficulties of having a baby, and emphasizing need for safety measures. Pediatricians have a key role in educating parents about infant walkers.

Keywords: *KAP, infant walkers, parents, Davao*