Reviewer's report

Title: Parent's Perception of Stroller Use in Young Children: A Qualitative Study

Version: 2  Date: 27 February 2015

Reviewer: Joanna Kesten

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript exploring parents' perceptions of stroller use. This is a well-written paper addressing a novel, important and emerging area of research. The authors have done a great job of capturing the complexity of stroller use and highlight the challenges of incorporating this behaviour into guidelines for parents. Below I have made suggestions for Minor Essential revisions to improve the paper.

Minor essential revisions

Introduction

Line 75. Please reference the literature on stroller related injuries and any literature on the prevalence, predictors and health outcomes to which you refer as being limited.

Methods

1. Please include the reason for your sample size and why you decided to stop data collection after 14 interviews.

2. There is a lack of information describing the sampling and recruitment approach. What strategy of sampling did you adopt purposive, convenience, snowball? Why were the two sites chosen to recruit participants from and are they similar to the other sites participating in TARGet Kids? During recruitment how were the participants invited to participate? It would also be useful for the reader to know more about the TARGet Kids in general to give an impression of whether parents involved in TARGet Kids are representative of the general population of parents. In addition, it is not clear whether families involved in TARGet Kids are receiving advice to engage in healthy behaviours which might influence their views around their child's physical activity.

3. It is not clear whether your study interviewed mothers only and whether this was your intention. Did you try to recruit fathers to the study? If so what reasons were given for non-participation? If the sample is entirely mothers it would be clearer to make explicit reference to this throughout rather than referring to them as parents. I would also like to see this noted as a limitation to the research.

Results

Although the secondary objective is to examine parents' perceptions of the relationship between stroller use and their children's health, the final theme is perceived impact on 'physical activity' which I feel doesn't address children's
health in broadest sense. Could the authors either do more to describe the relationship between stroller use and child health (if there are findings relating to this), for example well-being and sleep or consider changing the secondary objective to children's physical activity rather than health?

Discussion

Given the complexity of stroller use and the mixed feelings about whether it leads to greater or lesser physical activity it seems that future research might be needed to develop measures of the time spent in strollers to start to unpick the relationship between stroller use and physical activity. I would like to see the authors go a bit further in the discussion to suggest future directions for this area of research.

It would be useful to draw on previous qualitative studies examining parental perceptions of young children's physical activity generally to place these findings within the context of this broader literature. For example studies have shown little concern about child physical activity levels which is similar to the finding in this study that parents don’t seem concerned about child stroller use. For example:


Overall

Please ensure that full stop are used after the in-text citations throughout.

Tables

Please do not duplicate the same quotes in the main text and in the tables, where this has happened can you find another quote to use in the table?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests