iTui - a novel App improving paediatric assessments

Authors: Dr Maneesh Deva[1,2], Assoc. Prof Stephen Howie[1,2], Dr Tim Jelleyman[1,2]

Affiliations: 1.Waitematā District Health Board 2. University of Auckland

Background: Child assessments following child abuse are difficult. Verbal interviews are problematic for several reasons (child distress, confusion, cognitive issues).The drawing- based iTui App has been designed to aid Paediatric assessments following child abuse. The App allows for shared attention, cooperative play and exploration of ideas by the child and clinician.

Aim: To evaluate the usefulness and acceptance of the iTui App in Paediatric Gateway assessments in Waitematā DHB.

Methods: 36 participants were sequentially recruited from Waitematā DHB Paediatric Gateway assessments from July 2017- April 2018. The App was used if the clinician deemed this suitable for family (appropriate age, enough iPad devices).

A single sheet feedback form was completed by child and clinician. The child was asked their rating of the App using a number and smiley face scale. Clinicians were asked if they agreed/ disagreed with 5 part statements regarding the usefulness and acceptability of the App in their assessment (strongly agree/agree/neither/disagree/ strongly disagree).

Clinicians, children and caregivers were able to make additional comments on the form.

Results: Children found the App enjoyable with an average rating score of 9/10. This was consistent with the positive free text comments.

Clinicians found the App useful with 94% (34/36) agreeing or strongly aggressing with the statement "I found the App useful in my assessment". This was also consistent with the free text feedback. There was a variety of useful aspects clinicians mentioned. Furthermore, most clinicians felt the children enjoyed using the App (35/36).

Conclusion: The iTui App has been well accepted by children and useful for clinicians in Paediatric Gateway assessments in Waitematā DHB.