

**ABSTRACT**

This study evaluated 181 parent-child dyads during immunizations. Results showed that parental anxiety can predict the accuracy of parental pain ratings ( $B = .24$ ,  $t = 3.84$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). These findings suggest that parents' reports of their children's pain may be influenced by state anxiety.

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**HYPOTHESES**

- R<sub>x</sub>**
1. **Objectively coded child anxiety** will moderate the relationship between objectively coded child pain ratings and parent-report pain ratings.
  2. **Parent-report child anxiety** will moderate the relationship between objectively coded child pain ratings and parent-report pain ratings.
  3. **Parent self-report of anxiety** will moderate the relationship between objectively coded child pain ratings and parent-report pain ratings.

**METHODS**

1. The **independent variable** was average FLACC scores, measured in the two minutes after immunization.
2. The **dependent variable** was parental pain ratings.
3. The **three moderator variables** were parent reports of child anxiety, parent self-reports of anxiety, and baseline FLACC scores (measured one minute before immunization).

**RESULTS**

There were 6 significant correlations and one significant moderation regression model:

- **Average FLACC scores** ( $B = .49$ ,  $R^2 = .25$ ,  $t = 7.74$ ,  $p < 0.001$ )
- **Self-report parental anxiety** ( $B = .24$ ,  $R^2 = .07$ ,  $t = 3.84$ ,  $p < 0.001$ )

Parental anxiety is a significant predictor of the accuracy of parental pain ratings. This suggests that anxious parents may not be reacting to or reporting their children's pain in optimal ways. Educating parents about coping with their own anxiety and emotions may be a helpful new intervention.

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Baseline Behaviour	-				
2. Pain Behaviour	.523**	-			
3. Parent Pain Ratings	.288**	.466**	-		
4. Parental Anxiety	.008	.039	.272**	-	
5. Child Anxiety	.249**	.122	.147*	.302**	-

\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$

