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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Faculty research start up fund.

Review Stage at time of this submission - The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202580015

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 5 August 2025 and was last updated on 5 August 2025.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective This review will study what behavioral supports have been studied in this population in the past, elucidating avenues for future research and clinical development.

Background Children who experience burns to a significant portion of their body may be subjected to a long, arduous, and painful treatment course. In addition to pain management, children must also tolerate engagement in many different activities to support the healing process (e.g., change their wound dressings or movement-based therapy, such as physical and occupational therapy). While medication can be supportive in increasing their tolerance to pain and increasing the likelihood they will engage with required therapies, behavior analysis may provide a non-pharmacological intervention that can be used along side medication to support burn patients in their pain management and participation in activities necessary for their recovery.

Rationale A Scoping review covering this area does not currently exist and would provide guidance for clinicians and applied researchers on how behavioral interventions have been and should be used in this population.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis The strategy used will be entirely descriptive. That is, discussion of the articles, grouped by the coding in the method will drive the data synthesis.

Eligibility criteria First, study participants were less than 18 years of age during their treatment in the study due to the focus on pediatric patients. Secondly, studies must center burn conditions. Thirdly, study participants must be seen in an acute care setting for their burns. Fourthly, at least one dependent variable in the study must be a behavior. Pediatric populations undergoing treatment following a burn to their body.

Source of evidence screening and selection

Searches will be conducted in three literature databases: ERIC, Psycinfo, and PubMed. Studies will be coded for: a) number of participants, (b) age range of participants, (c) experimental design, (d) behavioral intervention, (e) dependent variable (DV), (f) results, and (g) findings.

Data management An online review management system (www.covidence.org) will be utilized to screen articles generated by the keywords. On Covidence, two independent researchers will screen the articles to determine if they meet criteria for inclusion through the Covidence platform. Articles will then be coded directly on the covidence platform.

Language restriction English only.

Country(ies) involved United States.

Keywords Pediatric burns; behavior.

Dissemination plans Submission to be considered for: peer reviewed conference presentation, including posters and symposia, and peer reviewed journal articles in behavior analytic or pediatric journals.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Clare Liddon - Study idea development, data collection, data analysis, writing, editing, corresponding author.

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