

Editorial

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by the Health and Medical Research Fund administered by the Health Bureau. In this edition, we present 11 dissemination reports of projects related to cancer, children's health, eye disorder, health services research, primary care and preventive medicine, infection, and Chinese medicine. In particular, research findings of three projects may provide insights to enhance clinical practices and help inform health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

Caring for children with life-limiting diseases can be challenging for parents who are fully occupied managing their child's care, often resulting in fatigue and family tension. Communication between parents and healthcare providers is essential for ensuring continuity of care and discussing treatment options. Paediatric palliative care is recommended after a diagnosis of a life-limiting disease, but access to this service is limited. Wong et al¹ explored the perceived needs of paediatric patients with life-limiting diseases from the perspectives of affected children, parents, and healthcare providers. Needs were identified related mainly to understanding and living with the disease, and coordination and continuity of care. Greater parental engagement in care planning and management with healthcare professionals was suggested. Paediatric palliative care was recommended to be introduced after diagnosis of a life-limiting disease, and nurse case managers could facilitate continuity of care and interdisciplinary communication.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness

in Hong Kong. Primary open-angle glaucoma is a chronic disease that requires long-term treatments such as eye drops, laser, and surgery to reduce intraocular pressure. Management decisions are usually made by the clinician, but shared decision-making emphasising patient autonomy, informed consent, and patient empowerment is becoming more common. Choy et al² developed a patient decision aid (PDA) and conducted a single-centre randomised controlled trial among 160 Chinese patients with primary open-angle glaucoma to determine the effectiveness of PDA at improving decision making. The study findings showed that the PDA was effective at significantly improving patients' disease knowledge and self-confidence in medication adherence and resulted them having higher confidence in making decisions that suited their needs.

Hospital readmissions can be costly and are often associated with adverse outcomes. The 30-day readmission rate in Hong Kong is about 17%, of which over 40% could have been avoided. Chung et al³ used systematic reviews and network meta-analyses with a Delphi consensus-building framework to develop unique peri-discharge nurse-led interventions that were aimed at reducing 30-day avoidable hospital readmissions for general medicine patients, patients with heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorders, and colorectal surgery patients. The recommended list of interventions could be used by healthcare policy-makers to guide resource allocation and inform the implementation and optimisation of interventions in the Hong Kong public healthcare system.

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References

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