PAIN EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION/AIM

Osteogenesis imperfecta (OI) is a genetic disorder with main clinical features that include bone fragility, frequent fractures, and varying degrees of physical limitations. Despite a substantial amount of research on certain aspects of the condition, the pain experiences of individuals diagnosed with OI has received little attention. The purpose of this integrative review is to determine the pain experiences of children and adults with OI, assess the methodological quality of OI pain studies, and identify implications for future research and practice.

METHODS

Five electronic databases were systematically searched for peer-reviewed published quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed-method studies. Eligible studies were appraised using the Quality Assessment Tool. Extracted data were analyzed using descriptive statistics with major themes identified through constant comparison.

RESULTS

A total of 27 studies (20 with children, 7 with adults) were included in this review with a majority being of poor quality. The sensory and evaluative pain dimensions were commonly measured, with few studies assessing the affective dimension. Pain experienced by individuals with OI was most commonly reported as being chronic, mild in intensity, and located in different areas of the body. Experiences with pain management strategies were assessed in children, but not in adults.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

A limited amount of research has been conducted on the pain experiences of individuals with OI. In order to better understand their pain experiences, future research would require longitudinal studies focused on assessing the multiple dimensions of OI pain, which would aid in informing clinical practices in pain management for this population.

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