Parents overestimated their child’s understanding about the elements of consent

Meaning of Affirmative Agreement Measure (MAAM) helps to identify elements that children do not understand

Rationale
- Research Ethics Boards must ensure researchers make adequate provisions for requesting the assent of capable children\(^1,2\)
- Regulations and policies are vague about what information to disclose and what children should understand\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^3\)
- Our research team developed Meaning of Affirmative Agreement Measure (MAAM) as a remedial measure to flag what a child does not understand to prompt researchers to re-explain difficult concepts

METHODS

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

MAAM vs expressed understanding

- MAAM showed that parents overestimated their child’s understanding of the elements of consent; no chance-corrected agreement between item ratings of parents and children
- Children explained 77% of the elements they reported as understood using MAAM-c; two children with lower cognitive abilities had more difficulty explaining these elements
- Children/parents said MAAM-c/MAAM-p items were clear
- Revised 7/20 items on MAAM-c based on review of children’s expressed understanding; revised 3/20 items on MAAM-p to match MAAM-c
- High acceptance of MAAM-c 2.0 /MAAM-p 2.0 items by children and parents

CONCLUSIONS
- Results support face validity of MAAM-c and MAAM-p
- More studies needed to estimate empirical forms of reliability and validity

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