



Polish Annals of Medicine

Journal homepage: <https://www.paom.pl>



SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Nieroba E, Larysz D. The Internet as an additional source of information on rare illness. A Facebook support group for parents of children with craniosynostosis as a case study. *Pol Ann Med.* <https://doi.org/10.29089/2019.19.00078>.

Appendix 1. Construct empowering processes (%).

Variable	Seldom to never	Sometimes	Often	Very often
EXCHANGING INFORMATION (Cronbach α = 0.859)				
The information and tips exchanged in this online support group are:				
understandable	0.0	5.6	63.0	31.5
valuable	0.0	24.1	66.7	9.3
usable	1.9	25.9	64.8	7.4
new	13.0	72.2	13.0	1.9
reliable	1.9	33.3	53.7	11.1
correct	0.0	42.6	48.1	9.3
of adds value to the information I receive from my child's doctor	9.3	44.4	40.7	5.6
in line with the information I receive from my child's doctor	3.7	27.8	64.8	3.7
ENCOUNTERING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT (Cronbach α = 0.860)				
Does it ever happen in this online support group that someone:				
invites you to have personal contact outside this online group	98.1	1.9	0.0	0.0
starts a private conversation with you	48.1	40.7	9.3	1.9
is empathic	33.3	20.4	33.3	13.0
consoles you	14.8	22.2	44.4	18.5
pays you a compliment	61.1	25.9	11.1	1.9
is interested in you	13.0	44.4	37.0	5.6
pays particular attention to you in special cases	13.0	33.3	42.6	11.1
reassures you	3.7	29.6	55.6	11.1
offer you sound advice	9.3	53.7	31.5	5.6
points out your strenghts	40.7	40.7	16.7	1.9
confides in you	44.4	35.2	16.7	3.7
asks you for your help or advice	20.4	55.6	22.2	1.9
FINDING RECOGNITION (Cronbach α = 0.682)				
Does it ever happen in this online support group that:				
you recognize your experiences in the stories of other online support group members	1.9	25.9	53.7	18.5
you experience that you not alone in struggle with your child's illness	0.0	7.4	63.0	29.6
others are an example to you	9.3	31.5	51.9	7.4
your situation is not the worst	5.6	29.6	37.0	27.8
HELPING OTHERS (Cronbach α = 0.782)				
Does it ever happen in this online support group that:				
you can be example to other participants	13.0	63.0	24.0	0.0
you can offer advice and support to others	7.4	57.4	31.5	3.7
you can share your experiences with child`s illness with others	1.9	51.9	38.9	7.4