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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 2. Construct empowering outcomes (%).

Variable	Completely disagree	Disagree	It is difficult to say	Agree	Completely agree
BEING BETTER INFORMED (Cronbach $\alpha = 0.876$)					
I feel better informed	3.7	0.0	14.8	31.5	50.0
I feel like I have more (correct) knowledge at my disposal to deal with illness of my child	3.7	3.7	20.4	27.8	44.4
I understand illness of my child better	1.9	9.3	11.1	31.5	46.3
I have a clearer picture about illness of my child	5.6	11.1	13.0	46.3	24.1
FEELING MORE CONFIDENT IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILD'S PHYSICIAN (Cronbach $\alpha = 0.945$)					
I feel better prepared for a doctor's appointment	3.7	11.1	13.0	25.9	46.3
I have the courage to talk with a specialist physician	11.1	9.3	18.5	22.2	38.9
I can oppose the opinion of the specialist doctor	20.4	16.7	20.4	14.8	27.8
I understand the information provided by doctor better	9.3	5.6	20.4	27.8	37.0
the relationship with doctor has improved	16.7	11.1	27.8	22.2	22.2
I am more able to judge when I really need the help of doctor	13.0	14.8	20.4	22.2	29.6
I feel less dependent on doctor	31.5	13.0	22.2	16.7	16.7
IMPROVED ACCEPTANCE OF THE ILLNESS (Cronbach $\alpha = 0.860$)					
I have accepted my child's illness	14.8	3.7	24.1	35.2	22.2
it is easier for me to tell others that my child is ill	14.8	7.4	22.2	25.9	29.6
I can ask others for help more quickly	7.4	11.1	31.5	33.3	16.7
INCREASED OPTIMISM AND CONTROL OVER THE FUTURE (Cronbach $\alpha = 0.916$)					
I feel that I have more control over what is happening with my child	9.3	7.4	27.8	27.8	27.8
I have learned to be more positive	13.0	7.4	18.5	40.7	20.4
I have more faith in the future	9.3	11.1	16.7	38.9	24.1

Comments: Participants completed the sentence: 'Through my participation in online support group'.