

**ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILDHOOD DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES IN TURKISH PARENTS, PEDIATRIC RESIDENTS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS****F. Simsek, B Ulukol, B. Bingoler, S. Gulnar***Ankara University, Medical School, Department of Pediatrics, Ankara, Turkey**simseksfiliz@hotmail.com*

Attitudes toward disciplinary practices vary from culture to culture. The aims of the study were to determine attitudes of parents, pediatric residents and medical students toward childhood disciplinary methods and also describe their attitudes about disciplinary actions, which should be reported to the proper authorities as abuse. A cross sectional survey was conducted and a questionnaire named "survey of standards of discipline" completed by 39 pediatric residents, 106 medical students, and 65 parents. Each practice was evaluated as acceptable or abusive actions and scored between 1 to 4 points. 'An average level of tolerance for physical and verbal punishment' were measured each respondent and analyzed statistically. Abusive behaviors were found more frequently in pediatric residents and medical students than parents group, and 43.3 % of all respondents agreed with beating. Childhood history of physical punishment was reported in 66.9 % respondents. Harshly social and physical practices were found higher in the persons with abusive childhood experiences. None of respondents accepted life-threatening practices as disciplinary methods. But some respondents received some abusive disciplinary practices as 'acceptable discipline practices'. Some disciplinary methods accepted as abusive practices were not being considered as reportable. High agreement about physical disciplinary practices may be occurred because of cultural norms, and lack of education about child discipline. Intergenerational transmission of physical punishment is important in attitudes of disciplinary practices. Failures of physicians to report abused cases and the unawareness about child disciplinary methods are alarming problems for child protection.

