

**Title:** Evaluation of primary caregivers' perceptions on home trampoline use

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**Introduction:** Trampolines account for up to 15% of pediatric orthopedic injuries, 40% of these injuries are classified as severe. Despite the well documented risk of injury, the use of trampolines has remained the same. The objectives of this study are to ascertain primary caregivers' understanding of risks associated with home trampoline use; to educate caregivers in regard to documented literature based risks associated with home trampoline use; and to evaluate if this information will have any influence on their future regulation of home trampoline use for their children.

**Method:** One hundred primary caregivers of patients treated in the pediatric orthopedic surgery outpatient clinic at London Health Sciences center were surveyed. Caregivers' baseline perceptions on the risks associated with home trampoline use were assessed using a questionnaire. Caregivers then received an information pamphlet outlining documented trampoline safety data. They were then sent the same questionnaire to complete within one week of reading the pamphlet.

**Results:** Providing education to primary caregivers significantly changed their perceptions on all trampoline safety questions, indicating effective comprehension. Despite caregivers' understanding of the risks associated with home trampoline use, approximately half of the study population continue to permit this activity for their children.

**Conclusions:** There is potential to reduce pediatric orthopedic injuries associated with home trampoline use if safer trampoline related practices are implemented based on information provided.