

Parental Anxiety & Pain Catastrophizing with Pediatric Dental General Anesthesia

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Background

- The pediatric literature is well populated with studies examining a child's anxiety and its influence on pain perception.
- Crandall et al. note varied causes for a child's heightened anxiety in health care settings including; the anticipation of pain, fear of the unknown, parenting style and parental anxiety.
- Available research on parental anxiety and its effect on post-operative pain in children is limited.
- State Anxiety defined as reflecting how an individual currently feels.
- Trait Anxiety defined as reflecting how an individual generally feels

Objective

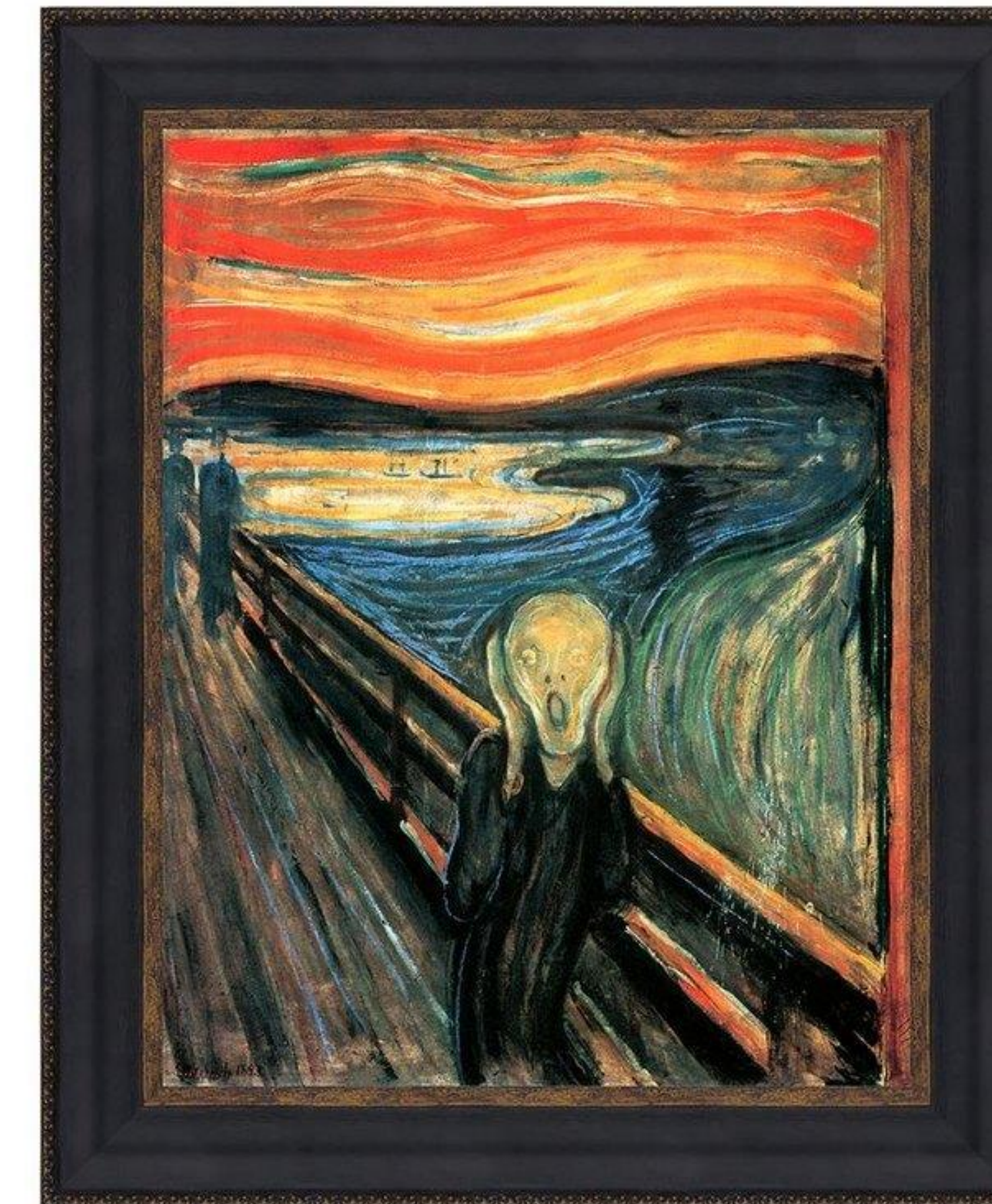
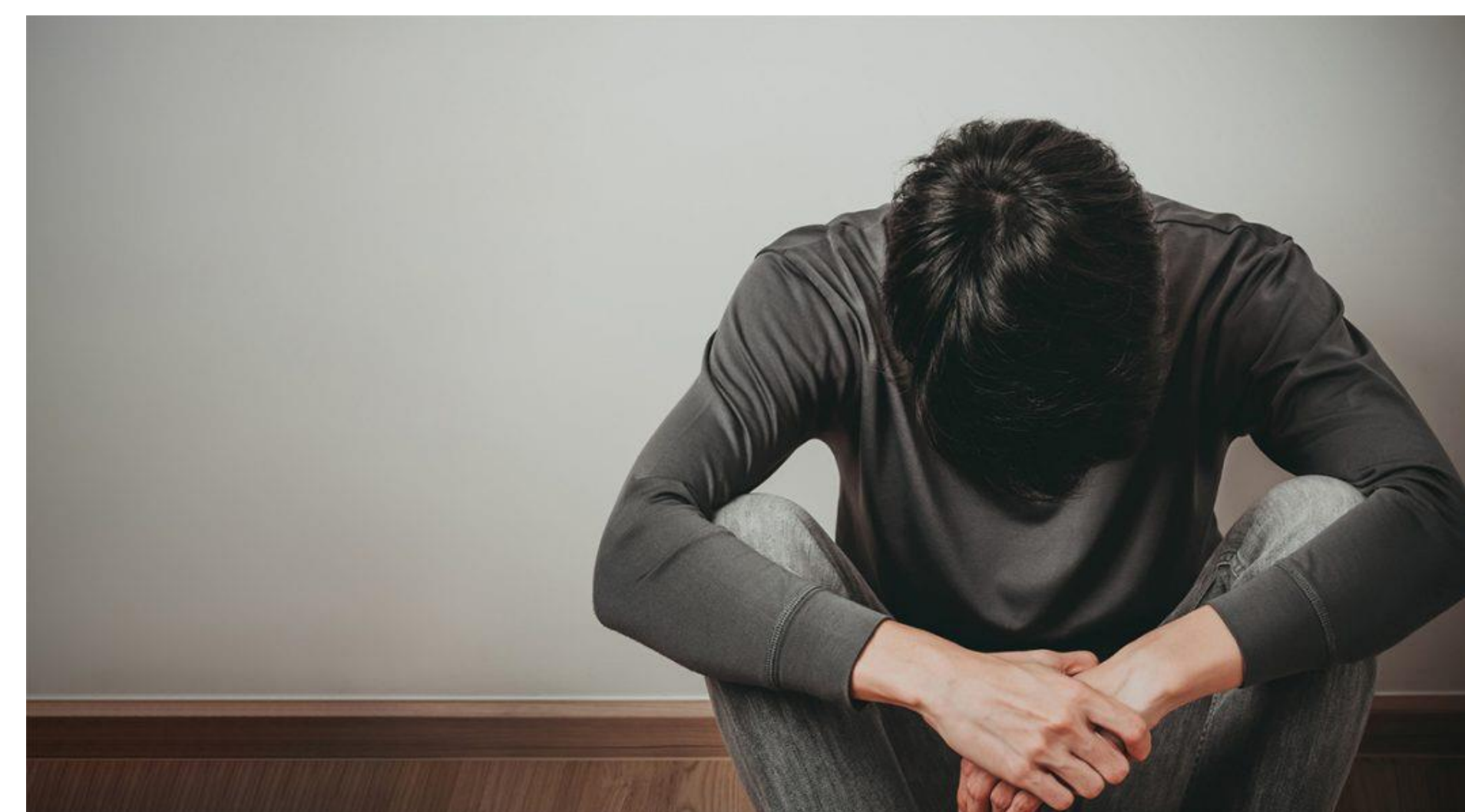
The purpose of this study was to examine associations between parental state / trait anxiety with pain catastrophizing behaviors in parents whose children undergo dental in office general anesthesia.

Methods

A quality assurance survey was given to caregivers who had children treated at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) for dental in-office general anesthesia.

Two different physical surveys were administered; the Pain Catastrophizing Scale and the State Trait Anxiety Inventory, before and after dental in-office general anesthesia.

Inclusion criteria included any English speaking caregiver whose child was treated under in-office general anesthesia for dental at CCHMC. Non-English speaking caregivers were excluded from recruitment.



Results

Data were collected from 21 caregivers who had a mean age of 34.8 years \pm 5.9 yrs. Eighty-Six percent of caregivers were female.

Most measured variables moved in a positive direction from pre to post anesthesia.

For example, 42% of caregivers described themselves as 'tense' prior to the appointment, and this fell to 23% at the post-op call.

Four percent (n=1) of caregivers demonstrated true catastrophizing behaviors consistent in the post-op call as well.

A weakness inherent in this study to this point is the potential for report bias.

Discussions and Conclusions

Caregiver anxiety was typically reduced at the post-operative phone call.

Identifying caregivers who demonstrate catastrophizing behaviors such as wondering whether the pain would end or if the pain could mean something more serious was happening, may indicate need for more comprehensive after-visit summaries

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