Adolescent participation in HTA: the identification of appropriate proxies for adolescent user needs of medical devices

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Background & Objectives
The use of proxy users by industry is useful for both health technology design and assessment.

Adolescents are a key group who frequently suffer from under-representation: ‘their’ input is often largely provided by proxies.

Adolescents as a specific user group are known to be poor compliers with medical treatment recommendations.

Relevant proxies for adolescent users of medical devices currently include; healthy adolescents, parents, carers and a variety of clinical staff.

There can be long term economic benefit to medical device manufacturers when technology adequately meets the needs of younger users.

The aim of this study was to investigate the opinions of healthy adolescent participants on the design of a number of current medical devices

Methods
What do teenagers think of current medical device design?

Methods to target the inclusion of adolescents in medical device R&D.

How can we compare data from adolescent users with proxy user data?

Workshop method and activity interviews developed. Designed to be appropriate and engaging for teenage participants.

AMDAT tool developed to provide a data capture technique to enable direct comparison of data from adolescent and proxy users.

Medical devices that meet the requirements and needs of adolescents (identified through the involvement of real users and, where appropriate, proxy users) will help address the issue of poor compliance and improve long term health outcomes.

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