

**Dr. Unni Narayanan**

*“Validation of the Patient Reported Outcomes of Fracture Healing (PROOF) Questionnaires for Evaluation of Pediatric Upper and Lower Extremity Fracture Outcomes”*

Children's fractures are common. These fractures are treated in different ways. We need research to understand which treatments are better, or which treatments might be better for specific patients based on their priorities and preferences. Defining "better" requires us to use outcome measures that must include what children and their parents think is important when they make judgements about whether their treatment was successful or not. These "patient reported outcome measures" (PROMs), which capture the patient &/or their parents' perspectives, are more meaningful than traditional ways to judge outcomes, like x-rays, which may or may not correlate with the patients' experience. In the absence of any PROMs for fractures in children, the PROOF questionnaires were developed to measure the outcomes of fracture healing based on the priorities of patients and parents that they shared with us. We also established that doctors who treat children's fractures believe that the PROOF questionnaires are likely to be useful. We are now interested in establishing that the PROOF questionnaires have all the necessary properties that define a good outcome measure. In this project we will evaluate how reliable (reproducible) and valid the PROOF questionnaires are by testing these questionnaires on children with different types of fractures who are being treated in different children's hospitals initially in Canada, and subsequently in other countries around the world. If shown to be reliable and valid the PROOF questionnaires have the potential to be adopted as the PROMs of choice in various research projects that are designed to compare the effectiveness of different treatments.