Physician Use of White Coats in Pediatric Ophthalmology

I was surprised by a recent study in which Reddy et al. found that 57% of parents prefer their children’s physician to wear a white coat during an outpatient pediatric ophthalmology examination. I was always of the opinion that most pediatric ophthalmologists did not wear white coats while examining children. It was my feeling that children were more fearful and stressed when the physician wore a white coat. With this dilemma in mind, several faculty from the Departments of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ocular Genetics of Wills Eye Hospital developed an eight-question, multiple-choice, closed-ended questionnaire that was e-mailed to all members of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus list-serv, once in January 2012 and again in February 2012. The response confirmed my opinion that most pediatric ophthalmologists do not routinely wear white coats during pediatric outpatient examinations.

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REFERENCE

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