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An assessment of the frequency of dentally unregistered paediatric patients requiring hospital admittance for dental infections

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An assessment of the frequency of dentally unregistered paediatric patients requiring hospital admittance for dental infections: In 2014-2015, more than 26,000 hospital admissions were for dental infections in children age 5-9. The Royal College of Surgeons of England state that 42.1% of children did not visit an NHS dentist between 2015-2016. Based on "Delivering Better Oral Health" and NICE Guidelines, all children should be registered and have a recall frequency of no more than 1 year. We aimed to assess how often paediatric patients in our region were registered with a dentist, and how often hospital admittance and emergency surgery for dental abscesses was required, which is a serious dental public health issue in the UK.

Results/Statistics:

- 211 A+E maxillofacial presentations between March 2017-September 2017
- 49 dental swellings
- 27/49 patients (55.1%) require admission into hospital for emergency surgery
- 63.3% (31/49) GDP registered vs 36.7% (18/49) not GDP registered
- 0% (0/18) of GDP unregistered children were given advice of how to register with a GDP

Conclusions/Clinical Relevance: The results show that not all paediatric patients have regular exposure to dental care by not being registered with a GDP. Without regular recall and examination, dental swelling will continue to be a frequent presentation in A+E in the UK.

Recommendations:

1. Staff to discuss with all paediatric patients and parents how to register with a dentist
2. Education advice on oral health to be sent to all nurseries/schools
3. Reaudit 6 months

Biography

George Jones graduated from the University of Manchester in 2015. He completed General Professional Training in 2017, working in emergency care, oral surgery, paediatric dentistry and restorative dentistry. During this time, he was awarded the TC White Medal Award by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow for outstanding achievements as a postgraduate. He now works as an Oral and Maxillofacial Trainee in Middlesbrough, UK. He has published papers in the British Dental Journal and for the Royal College of Surgeons.

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