

SEPSIS AWARENESS IN DENTAL PRACTICES

September is Sepsis Awareness Month and for the first time, dental practices around the UK will be getting behind the campaign. The UK Sepsis Trust (<https://sepsistrust.org>) and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer have worked together to produce a poster (right) which is being circulated to all of the UK's 12,000 dental practices.

The poster is part of a drive to raise awareness of the risk of sepsis which can be described as a serious and sometimes fatal complication arising from an infection. Although rare in dentistry, there have been some cases linked to dental infection or to a visit to a clinic.

Damian Walmsley, the British Dental Association's scientific advisor says: 'There may be a theoretical risk in relation to invasive procedures but having untreated infections, for instance an abscess, is more likely to put people at risk.'

The Sepsis Trust campaign is being led by Melissa Mead, their project manager. Melissa began working for the campaign after her 17 month old son William died from sepsis. At the time she had never heard of it. As William died at home unexpectedly his body had to go away for a post-mortem examination.

The pathologist found that William had a left collapsed lung, an abscess in his left upper lung lobe, a pleural effusion with over 200mls of viscous fluid in his left lung cavity, pneumonia in both lungs, heavy inner and outer ear infection and sepsis.



NHS

OPEN WIDE AND JUST ASK
'COULD IT BE SEPSIS?'

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition triggered by an infection anywhere in the body – including a dental or throat infection. **It kills 44,000 people a year in the UK, yet can be treated easily if caught early.** So if someone on antibiotics, or who has a fever or flu-like symptoms, becomes very unwell, always ask 'could it be sepsis?'

<p>ANY ADULT WHO HAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slurred speech or confusion Extrême shivering or muscle pain Passed no urine in a day Severe breathlessness Illness so bad they fear they are dying Skin mottled or discoloured 	<p>ANY CHILD WHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is breathing very fast • Has a 'fit' or convulsion • Looks mottled, bluish or pale • Has a rash that does not fade when you press it • Is very lethargic or difficult to wake • Feels abnormally cold to touch
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MIGHT HAVE SEPSIS:
CALL 999 AND JUST ASK 'COULD IT BE SEPSIS?'

For symptom cards and information, visit www.sepsistrust.org

THE UK SEPSIS TRUST

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'Sepsis' Melissa replied. 'What's that?' She is now on a mission to make sure everyone in healthcare understands what sepsis is. It's entirely preventable but left undiagnosed, as in William's case, it can be fatal. An NHS Root Cause Analysis report into his death conducted by NHSE South identified 4 missed opportunities to save his life.

Turn to page 19 to read Sarah Haslam's article explaining sepsis and the work of the Sepsis Trust in raising awareness.

HULL DENTAL PRACTICE MANAGER AWARDED MBE

Ingrid Perry, Secretary and Trustee of the award-winning children's dental health charity Teeth Team, has been awarded an MBE for 'Services to Education and Improvement of Dental Health in Young People' in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. A practice manager for mydentist in Holderness Road in Hull, she will receive her award later this year.

Ingrid has over 35 years' experience within the dental profession and has gained national recognition, winning the Patron's Prize for Innovation in 2012 from the NOHPG (National Oral Health Promotion Group). She was also runner-up in the Hull Women in Business, Women of Achievement Awards in both 2012 and 2014 and a finalist in the 2013 Dental Awards in the category of Oral Health Promoter of the Year.

Ingrid is a familiar face in East Yorkshire having worked in community health for many years, firstly in providing oral health education directly to local families and more recently as a practice manager.

Drawing on her own childhood experiences

of the effects of poor oral health, which included multiple extractions under anaesthetic, plus her knowledge of the local community, she founded a scheme to go into schools to promote toothbrushing. That scheme went on to become the charity Teeth Team.

The charity's achievements are impressive, achieving a near 20% reduction in children's



extractions under general anaesthetic in one area of Hull alone.

Since its inception, what began as a small community organisation has expanded across the UK to areas of deprivation aiming to make a positive impact on children's oral health.

Ingrid said: 'I know first-hand the lifelong difficulties that children face due to early tooth decay and that is what drives me to make a change. Sadly not all children are encouraged to maintain good oral health, or make the right food choices, but through our work we aim to educate children and make brushing an everyday routine.'

'The children that we see now are the parents of tomorrow and by providing education and encouragement we can break the cycle of childhood dental decay.'

'I'm extremely honoured to be receiving an MBE but the award honours everyone who has been involved with Teeth Team.'

Teeth Team Chair, Chris Groombridge, offered his congratulations: 'We are all delighted to hear that Ingrid has been awarded an MBE. I have worked with Ingrid for many years and this is rightful recognition of her dedication to children's dental health over the entire course of her career.'