

Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.

The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by John R. Radford.

CARIES AND SYSTEMIC DISEASES

Caries is associated with asthma and epilepsy

Anjomshoaa I, Cooper ME *et al. Eur J Dent* 2009; **3**: 297-303

Those with asthma and those with epilepsy 'should receive more individualised attention regarding caries prevention'.

The medical history and caries experience were collected from each of 318 patients (mean age 41.7 years) from a 'high risk population for oral and systemic diseases from Pittsburgh'. Regression analysis was used to look for associations between caries experience and some systemic diseases. After controlling for gender difference, caries experience was associated with asthma. Caries was also associated with those who have epilepsy. However, caries experience 'does not appear to be associated with cardiovascular diseases or diabetes'. The authors suggest that the link between caries and asthmatics may have a genetic basis. With respect to epilepsy, 'medication, might increase the risk of caries'. They conclude that 'individuals suffering from asthma or epilepsy should receive more individualized attention regarding caries prevention'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.73

DENTAL ANXIETY

The modified dental anxiety scale: UK general public population norms in 2008 with further psychometrics and effects of age

Humphris GM, Dyer TA *et al. BMC Oral Health* 2009; **9**: 20
doi:10.1186/1472-6831-9-20

An accurate yet quick method to identify those with dental anxiety in general practice.

The Modified Dental Anxiety Scale (MDAS) is a concise self-complete questionnaire that can be used to screen for dental anxiety. It comprises five questions only. The aims of this study were 1) to confirm the measurement properties of MDAS, 2) to establish the prevalence of dental anxiety in order to estimate a UK population norm and 3) to investigate the relationship between anxiety and age. A market research company called 6,937 telephone numbers of participants over 18 years of age. The response rate was 14%, although the investigators maintain that 'the potential bias was minimal'. Sophisticated statistical methods affirmed the first study objective. In this sample, the investigators report that 11.6% had high dental anxiety. Dental anxiety was four times more prevalent in the young (18-39 yrs) compared to those who were older (60+ yrs), adjusting for confounders.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.74

MOUTHGUARDS

Effectiveness and fabrication of mouthguards

Maeda Y, Kumamoto D *et al. Dent Traumatol* 2009; **25**: 556-564

Vacuum-formed mouthguards fit better when, during fabrication, the working cast is dry.

Soft mouthguards more effectively absorb trauma from hard objects. Conversely however, soft mouthguards are inferior in protecting against soft-object collisions, such as from boxing gloves. Interestingly, dark-coloured materials incorporated into ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) copolymer, 'provide superior adaptation and more firmly fitting mouthguards than (a) clear material'. The most satisfactory fit for a vacuum-formed mouthguard was when 'the working cast was thoroughly dried...' during fabrication. This is because air, trapped between the formed sheet material and cast, can rapidly escape through a dry cast, during the 'suck-down' process. Of note, some investigators have reported there were no significant differences 'between wearers and non-wearers of mouthguards with respect to head and neck injuries in general and to oral injuries in particular'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.75

VIEWS OF OLDER PEOPLE

Informing the debate on oral health care for older people: a qualitative study of older people's views on oral health and oral health care

Borreani E, Jones K *et al. Gerodontology* 2009;
doi: 10.1111/j.1741-2358.2009.00274.x

'Every participant strongly felt that it was their right to receive NHS care'.

This qualitative study, adopting a thematic framework method, explored views on the oral health and oral care of older persons. The subjects comprised 39 people (and/or their carers), '49% were aged 75-84 years'. These were apportioned to ten focus groups. The following three themes emerged. Those who were edentulous felt that they do not need to visit the dentist. However, regular attendance and positive approval by the dentist was 'seen as key indicators of good oral health'. Secondly, the cumulative experience of attending the dentist over their lifetime influenced present perceptions. Past treatment from school dentists was cited frequently as a frightening experience. Finally, the older persons in this study, considered it was their right to receive National Health Service care.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.76