

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 Reena Wadia

Dental care for the homeless

Anxiety and anger of homeless people coping with dental care

Mago A *et al.* *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 2018; **46**: 225–230.

Homeless people have difficulty coping with dental care.

The aim of this study was to explore how homeless people in Vancouver interpret, appraise and cope with dental care. Audio-recorded interviews with 25 homeless people purposefully selected for a range of experiences, were transcribed and analysed. The process of interpretive description drawing from the Behavioural Model for Vulnerable Populations and Lazarus's Theory of Emotions identified how participants appraised and coped with dental care. Four dominant themes were identified: barriers to care, service use, opinions on dental health and improving dental services. Participants were anxious about the cost of dentistry and fearful of dentists. They received emergency dental care with difficulty, usually in hospital emergency departments, although mostly they preferred self-treatment. They acknowledged the importance of dental health but felt stigmatised by their homelessness and visibly unhealthy mouths. They wanted more accessible dental services with financial assistance from the government, more widespread information about community dental clinics and less humiliating discrimination from dentists.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.502

Periodontal disease, HIV and methamphetamine

Cohort study of HIV-positive and -negative methamphetamine users

Spolsky VW *et al.* *J Am Dent Assoc* 2018; S0002-8177(18)30131-4.

DOI: 10.1016/j.adaj.2018.02.026 [Epub ahead of print].

Lifestyle contributed more to destructive periodontal disease than methamphetamine use.

The effects of methamphetamine on caries are well documented. However, little is known about its effects on the periodontium. This cross-sectional study, based in Los Angeles, aimed to determine the prevalence and severity of periodontal disease in an urban population of HIV-positive methamphetamine users. Participants were recruited by a combination of street outreach methods, referral from drug treatment centres and word of mouth. Participants were eligible if they were older than 18 years, spoke English or Spanish and had used methamphetamine in the past 30 days. Three trained and calibrated dentists completed periodontal assessments for 541 participants. The prevalence and severity of periodontal disease was high in this population of HIV-positive and -negative methamphetamine users. Cigarette smoking and age were identified as risk factors. The HIV-positive and -negative cohorts were remarkably similar, suggesting that their lifestyles contributed more to their destructive periodontal disease than their methamphetamine use.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.504

Dental caries in foster-care children and adolescents

Prevalence and severity of dental caries in foster-care children and adolescents

Solis-Riggioni *et al.* *J Clin Pediatr Dent* 2018; DOI: 10.17796/1053-4628-42.4.5.

A high prevalence of dental caries was found in foster-care children.

This cross-sectional descriptive study aimed to determine the prevalence and severity of dental caries among institutionalised children and adolescents. Two hundred and one children and adolescents aged between 2 and 17 years were selected by following pre-established criteria from 33 shelters located in San José, Costa Rica. The International Caries Detection Assessment System method was used for caries assessment. ANOVA and Student's T-test were used for statistical analyses. Caries prevalence was estimated at 96%. No significant difference was found for sex or age group. Regarding caries severity, early enamel lesions were the most frequent pathology, representing 79% of carious surfaces. It was found that different risk factors (social, psychological, economic and personal) might be related to the high prevalence of dental caries in foster-care children and adolescents. The authors suggested that special strategies should be developed to prevent and treat dental caries in this vulnerable population.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.503

Dental service utilisation of pregnant women

Qualitative exploration of barriers and facilitators of dental service utilisation of pregnant women: A triangulation approach

Bahramian H *et al.* *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth* 2018; **18**: 153.

Understanding perceived barriers of dental service utilisation during pregnancy can be helpful when planning care in countries with developing oral healthcare systems.

This qualitative study explored barriers influencing dental service utilisation amongst pregnant women. It included 22 pregnant women, 8 midwives and 12 dentists from public centres in Tehran. Face-to-face semi-structured interviewing and focus-group discussion methods were used. Reported barriers of dental service utilisation among pregnant women included: lack of knowledge and misbelief, cost of dental care, physiological changes, fear and other psychological conditions, time constraint, dentists' unwillingness to accept pregnant women for treatment, cultural taboos and lack of inter-professional collaboration. Solutions proposed by dentists, midwives and pregnant women to improve utilisation were categorised under provision of knowledge, financial support and establishing supportive policies. The authors concluded that understanding perceived barriers can be helpful for planning appropriate oral health education, financial support, and legislation tailored for lower income pregnant women, midwives and dentists in countries with a developing oral healthcare system.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.505