



Dental Provider Effect on Oral Health of Pediatric Hemophiliac Patients



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INTRODUCTION

Hemophilia is an X-linked recessive disorder that predominantly affects males. Oral manifestations include post-extraction bleeding and gingival bleeding, worsened by gingival inflammation and poor oral hygiene. No studies have explored the effect of the presence of a dental provider within a pediatric hemophiliac outpatient clinic and how it might influence oral health outcomes in this population.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the effect of a dental provider within a pediatric hemophiliac outpatient clinic on patients' oral health outcomes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Participants were patients diagnosed with Hemophilia aged 5-17 years, attending their routine Pediatric Hematology outpatient clinic at the UF Shands Hospital.
- As part of this study, Pediatric dental residents performed the following:
 - A non-invasive dental **examination** using a dental mirror and a tongue blade to record oral hygiene index (OHI) and Decayed-Missing-Filled Teeth (DMFT) index
 - Administered a **questionnaire** (Table 1) with the patient's caregiver that obtained information on oral health practices and parental perceptions of their child's oral health
 - Provided basic **oral Health Education** including oral hygiene instructions to patients and their caregivers using a brochure (Fig 1)
- This study was conducted at their initial appointment and at their 6 month follow up at the Pediatric Hematology Outpatient Clinic.

RESULTS

- Total number of participants so far is 10 (all males) with a mean age of 9.1 years.
- The average DMFT score was 2.18. Patients with DMFT indices were ages 5-7 years.
- Baseline OHI scores showed a mean of 2.65, indicating a moderate level of plaque burden.
- Only 1 participant attended the six month follow up visit and he developed caries on 4 primary molars.
- Three patients (36%) reported not having a dental home.

PATIENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS		
Does patient have dental home?	Yes = 64%	
How many times does your child brush their teeth?	Once 64%	Twice 36%
Supervision with brushing	No = 55%	
Does your child's gums bleed when brushing?	Yes = 36%	
How would you rate your child's oral health?	Fair = 82%	
There is not much that I can do to stop my child from getting cavities	No = 100%	
There is not much that I can do to help my child have healthy teeth	No = 100%	
Most children eventually develop cavities in their teeth.	True/Don't know= 45%	

Table 1: Parent questionnaire results.

Fig 1: Oral Hygiene Educational Brochure



CONCLUSIONS

- Main study limitation was poor compliance with outpatient hematology visits.
- Questionnaire results revealed a positive attitude towards oral health among patients' caregivers.
- Preliminary study outcomes resulted in establishment of a dental home for 3 patients with ECC.
- The attendance of a Pediatric dental resident at the Pediatric Hematology outpatient clinic:
 - allowed for easy communication between medical and dental personnel
 - facilitated establishment of a dental home for this patient population