Abstracts of interest

A complication of primary herpetic gingivo-stomatitis

E.Thomas. Brit Dent J 2007;203:33-34

A 7 year-old girl was referred with a two week history of fever, lymphadenopathy, oral and peri-oral ulceration. A diagnosis of primary herpetic gingivo-stomatitis was made on clinical criteria. Returning 2 weeks later she presented with bilateral labial adhesions, extending from the labial commisures limiting mouth opening. After a further 2 weeks the lesions had not broken down and were therefore released under general anaesthesia

Comment. This is an interesting but rare complication of primary herpetic gingivo-stomatitis. When ulceration occurs affecting the lips and commisures it is recommended that barrier creams be used to prevent this condition.

Recall rates and caries experience of patients undergoing general anaesthesia for dental treatment

W.J. Jamison, K. Vargas. Pediatr Dent 2007;29:253-257

The aim of this study was to assess recall rates and caries experience of children treated under GA. Retrospective analysis of dental records was carried out for 217 children for date of GA, age, follow-up visits, referral status, new caries and need for new treatment. The results showed that 25% failed on recall; 41% were referrals; 54% returned for the 2 week post-operative visit and only 13% for the 6-month recall. It was concluded that recall after hospital GA for treatment was very low and recurrent caries high.

Comment. The social background of children requiring hospital GA dental treatment is low world wide. This paper highlights the continuing difficulties in caring for these children. The in-hospital GA treatment is costly and time consuming, yet the long-term benefits seem to be low. In this paper no details are given of the type of dental treatment provided, such as whether it was just extractions or restoration and were pulp treatments with pre-formed metal crowns used. Other reports where full coverage crowns have been used report better long term effects. However even in these situations recurrent caries remains a problem. The challenge for paediatric dentistry is to provide the dental care but more importantly deal with the prevention of recurrent caries.

Dental screening of pre-school children using teledentistry: A feasibility study

D.T. Kopycka-Kedzierawski, et al. Pediatr Dent 2007;29:209-213

The aim here was to assess the feasibility and reliability of using an intra-oral camera and telehealth communication technology to screen pre-school children for oral disease, particularly ECC. An examiner screened 50 4-6 year old children. Images of the children's teeth were obtained and transmitted to a remote computer. After a 2 week wash-out period images were read by the clinical examiner. A comparison of the clinical and teledentistry results showed no statistically significant difference between the two approaches. Sensitivity of teledentistry was 100% and specificity 81%

Comment. The benefits of routine pre-school, or school dental screening, examinations continues to be debated. In low-caries risk populations they are probably not cost-effective. However, in high-risk groups, particularly where ECC is a widespread problem, the benefits may still be worthwhile. This approach using a rapid teledentistry approach might enable significant numbers of children to be initially recorded and then their dental status assessed later. The in-school time might therefore be reduced making the screen more cost-effective. In rural areas this approach may be even more attractive.

Dental caries patterns in primary dentition in 3, 5 and 7 yr-old children: Spatial correlation and preventive consequences

J. Vanobbergen et al. Caries Res 2007;41:16-25.

Caries data were obtained from two national surveys in Belgium comprising 7074 children. Clinical examinations were completed as well as background information via a parental questionnaire. Descriptive observations suggested a symmetrical distribution of dental caries. It was concluded that if a child has caries on one side of their mouth, lesions will tend to aggregate on the same side more than expected by chance.

Comment. Risk assessment for children on an individual and population level is important. This extensive study adds useful information where paediatric dentists are assessing the likely caries prevalence in mouths. The distribution of likely location of detectable carious lesions requires careful intra-oral examination as well as consideration of a child's previous caries history.

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