

Wyne AH. Attitude of parents of disabled children towards dental visits in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. *J Odonto-Stomatol Tropic*. 118:17-23; 2007.

Abstract

The objective of the present study was to determine the attitude of parents of disabled children in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia towards dental visits. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect the required information. A total of 315 parents, 70 (22.2%) fathers and 245 (77.8%) mothers completed the questionnaire. Almost all (99.0%) the parents were aware that regular dental check-ups are important in maintaining good dental health. Two-thirds (66.7%) of the parents were of the opinion that one must visit a dentist every six months for dental check-up; and some (17.8%) even every three months. However, 83 (26.3%) children had never visited a dentist. Only nine (2.8%) children had visited a dentist for first dental check-up by the age of three years. A significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher percentage of parents with "secondary school or higher" education (69.7%) were of the opinion that one should visit a dentist every six months as compared to parents with "middle school or lower" education (57.3%). About one-fourth of the older age groups (25.6% in 6 - 10 years old and 24.5% in ≥ 11 years old) made their last visit to a dentist due to pain as compared with about one in every ten children (11.1%) in younger age group. The children with mental retardation had the highest percentage (81.5%) among those who had visited a dentist followed by cerebral palsy children (79.2%) and Downs syndrome children (68.4%). It can be concluded that the parents' attitude towards importance of regular visit in their disabled children is positive. However, there is a need to inform them about the importance of early first dental visit, and establishing a support mechanism to utilize their positive attitude.

Wyne AH. Oral health knowledge in parents of Saudi cerebral palsy children. *Neurosciences*. 12:306-311; 2007.

Abstract

Objectives: To determine oral health knowledge in parents of cerebral palsy (CP) children, and the parents' attitude towards oral health of their CP children. **Method:** A self-administered questionnaire was utilized to collect the required information from the parents. A total of 106 parents, 73 (68.9%) mothers and 33 (31.1%) fathers completed the questionnaire; from April to June 2006 in Riyadh. **Results:** All (100%) the parents

thought that good oral health was important for maintaining optimum general health. A great majority (95.3%) of the parents believed that they can maintain good dental health in their CP children by supervising their children's tooth brushing, reducing sugary foods intake and making regular visits to a dentist. A significantly high ($p < .05$) percentage of high education parents (96.8%) had heard about fluoride as compared low education parents (79.5%). **Conclusion:** The overall oral health knowledge and attitude of parents of CP children is satisfactory.

Wyne AH, Chohan AN, Al-Moneef MM, Al-Saad AA. Attitudes of general dentists about smoking cessation and prevention in child and adolescent patients in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. *J Contemp Dent Pract.* 7:1-9; 2006.

Abstract

The objective of this study was to determine the attitude of general dentists towards smoking cessation and prevention in their child and adolescent patients in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A questionnaire was utilized to record demographic information and the dentists' opinion about their responsibility, effectiveness and confidence in smoking cessation and prevention. A total of 208 general dentists completed the questionnaire. About two-thirds (62.5%) of the respondents thought to "some extent" or "considerable extent" that it was their responsibility as dentists to help children and adolescents in smoking cessation. A majority (69.3%) also thought that it was part of their responsibility (with varying degree) to prevent smoking in children and adolescents. However, the respondents were not very optimistic about the effectiveness of their counseling in smoking cessation, as 37.0% thought that their counseling will "not be effective at all" and 38.5% only "moderately effective". The majority (59.2%) of the respondents were either "not at all confident" or only "somewhat confident" in their ability to help children and adolescents in smoking cessation. Slightly more than one-third (35.6%) of the respondents had attended a formal course/training in smoking cessation and prevention. It can be concluded that the majority of general dentists consider smoking cessation and prevention as part of their responsibility. However, there is a clear evidence of lack of confidence and doubt about the effectiveness of their smoking intervention efforts.

Wyne AH, Chohan AN, Allam R, Shonu N, Al-Matroodi N. Oral health knowledge among female secondary school children in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. *J P D A*. 15:75-79; 2006.

Abstract

Objective: To determine the oral health knowledge among female secondary school children in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. **Methods:** The information about oral health knowledge was collected through a self-administered questionnaire. **Results:** A total of 656 randomly selected female secondary school children completed the questionnaire. The mean age of the children was 16.6 (SD 1.4) years ranging from 14 years to 18 years. A great majority (94.4%) of the children was aware that good dental health is important for good general health. About two-thirds (68.0%) of the children correctly thought that teeth should be cleaned after each meal, however, more than one-fifth (22.0%) of the children reported that no one taught them how to clean their teeth. More than one-third (37.3%) of the children thought that one must visit the dentist only in case of pain in teeth. About nine in ten children (91.0%) were aware that sweets (chocolates/candies) could cause tooth decay. However, a large number of children were not aware of cariogenic potential of sweetened milk (74.5%). About three-fourth (76.5%) of the children knew that the best way to maintain optimum gingival health was to clean their teeth daily. Dentists were the most popular (48.5%) source of oral health information. **Conclusions:** The oral health knowledge of female secondary school children in Riyadh is satisfactory. However, further information needs to be provided in the areas of toothbrushing, importance of regular dental visits and harmful effects of sweetened/soft drinks.