

Poster Submission Form
Pediatrics for the 21st Century Symposium
Oral Health in the 21st Century:
Something to Smile About – Pediatrician’s Role in
Oral Health

Friday, October 10, 2008
Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

The American Academy of Pediatrics is holding the Peds-21 Poster Session & Luncheon followed by the Peds-21 Symposium. For more information about Peds-21, go to: <http://www.aap.org/peds-21> and be sure to read the Peds-21 Call for Posters.

Abstract Submission Deadline: June 13, 2008

Attn: astolic@aap.org

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POSTER SESSION ABSTRACT INFORMATION:

Title: **Changes in dental referrals and oral findings after implementation of an oral health program at the Children's Hospital Primary Care Clinic (CHPCC)**

POSTER SESSION ABSTRACT BODY:

Background:

(maximum 50 words)

Pediatricians may see children at least 11 times for preventive visits by the age of 3 years. Pediatricians are ideally suited to screen young children for risk of early childhood caries and serve as the entry point into the dental care system by referring the child to a dentist.

Project Objectives:

(maximum 50 words)

To evaluate the effectiveness of an Oral Health Program at CHPCC by comparing pre-intervention and post intervention:

- The change in number of children between 0-3 years seen for a new patient visit at the Dental Clinic
- The mean age and dental findings of the children

Target population(s):

Children age 0-3 who are patients at the CHPCC and the Dental Clinic. These children are high risk for ECC. Most of these children reside in the neighborhoods surrounding Children's Hospital Boston. In these neighborhoods, the proportion of children in poverty range from 23% to 34%

Project Description:

(maximum 100 words)

In 2005, pediatricians at CHPCC and pediatric dentists at the Dental Clinic began a collaboration including the development of an oral health educational program (OHE) for the pediatric medical residents. The curriculum was designed to provide education about ECC, and training to perform brief and effective oral evaluations in young children during their routine well child visits at the CHPCC.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the oral health educational program by examining the changes in referrals of children from CHPCC to the Dental Clinic and the findings associated with implementation of the program.

Methods/Strategies:

(maximum 100 words)

With IRB approval, a retrospective review of dental billing records, medical records and dental charts was performed. The pre- and post-intervention periods were defined as the 24 months before and after the implementation of the OHE program.

The dental charts reviewed were of children who had a new comprehensive oral evaluation at the Dental Clinic, were age 0-3 years, and patients at CHPCC.

Data collected were entered in SPSS. Chi square test was used on non-parametric data and t test on parametric data. Multivariate logistic regression and multivariate regression were used to evaluate the effect of the intervention on outcomes.

Results/Impact:

(maximum 100 words)

After implementing the Oral Health Program, there was:

- An increase in first preventive dental visits of CHPCC children at the Dental Clinic, from 233 to 289 (p<0.01)
- A decrease in the mean age at first dental visits
- A lower mean *dmft* and *dmfs* (*significant difference in mean p<.001*)
- A decrease in prevalence of cavitated lesions
- Age was a significant predictor of caries (p<.0001)

Age adjusted odds ratio showed:

- 7.1 times less likely to be treated in the OR (p<0.0001)
- 6.25 times less likely to require sedation (p<0.0001)

Conclusion/Key Lesson(s) Learned:

(maximum 150 words)

A major objective of the collaborative OHE Program between CHPCC and the Dental Clinic was to have the pediatric medical providers refer their young patients for a preventive dental visit by age one or shortly after. Study results indicate that the project is meeting this stated objective. Additionally, children at high risk for ECC are receiving preventive dental care at an earlier age.

Age was identified as a significant predictor of caries. Older children were more likely to present with caries or restorations. This indicates that the patient population shared between CHPCC and the Dental Clinic are at increasing risk for caries and validates the need for early preventive dental visits for these patients. It also substantiates the need for physician and nursing involvement in oral health assessment during well child medical visits.

Partnerships between pediatricians and dentists are essential to ensure early referrals of children for preventive dental visits.

TABLES/FIGURES/PHOTOS (limit 4 total, 2 MB total) (optional): Please add any tables, figures, and/or photographs to the space below that will further help explain your abstract. If using photos, please ensure that the subjects cannot be identified through identifying marks or features.

Disclosure Form: Submissions will not be considered without disclosing any conflicts of interest. The submitting *author and all co-authors* are responsible for reviewing the AAP Conflict of Interest/Disclosure Policy and completing, signing, and submitting the form along with your abstract by August 9, 2008. All conflict of interest information is included with this call for abstracts.

ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT: By checking this box, I understand that if my abstract submission is accepted, I am responsible for all of my expenses, including meeting registration, travel, hotel, meals and transportation.

Poster session abstracts must be **received** by **June 13, 2008** via email at astolic@aap.org.