

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF PARENTS CONCERNING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF DENTAL TRAUMA IN KIDS

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Accidental traumatic injuries in kids is a substantial oral health concern universally. Parents have been designated as the preliminary caretakers of the kids and have the most likely chance of being present when the child suffers any form of dental trauma. Henceforth, the core purpose of this meticulous study is to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of the parents pertaining to the emergency management of traumatic dental injuries. **Aim:** The core purpose of this meticulous study is to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of the parents pertaining to the emergency management of traumatic dental injuries. **Material and Methods:** The study was performed on 597 parents' who were presented with a carefully primed questionnaire. The questionnaire was presented after receiving an ethical clearance from the committee. The form was briefly explained to all the parents and a written consent was obtained. The time allotted was 10 minutes to fill the complete form. The study was divided based on questions on basic knowledge, approach, self-assessment, and conceivable approaches to modify the situation. The collected data was subject to detailed analysis. **Results:** About 72.19% of the parents involved in the survey had his/her child involved in a traumatic dental injury. While 66.49% of the parents agreed to seek professional help, only 47.90% of the parents agreed to approach a pediatric dentist in case of a traumatic dental injury. Only 51.75% of the parents showed willingness to attend a short course to enhance their knowledge concerning the emergency management of dental trauma. **Conclusion:** The results obtained from the study revealed that there is a substantial lack of knowledge and awareness amongst parents pertaining to the emergency management of dental injuries. We recommend that comprehensive enlightening informative templates should be developed and made available to all the parents.

Key words: Parents; Knowledge; Attitude; Emergency management

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INTRODUCTION:

It cannot be denied that the prevalence of the traumatic injuries to oral cavity and surrounding structures is a substantial oral health concern universally.¹ The data has revealed that such injuries are more commonly observed in kids studying in public schools as compared to the students studying in private schools.² The prevalence of such traumatic dental and supporting structures in children affect all the teeth and their secondary structures along with the adjacent tissues.³ A multitudinous number of epidemiological studies performed over a period of time has revealed that about 5.17% to 36.93% of the kids are subject to traumatic injuries to dental structures.⁴ Although all injuries could prove to be extremely fatal, the most solemn injury is the avulsion of the tooth structure from the socket.⁵ The avulsion injury is observed in over 12% of the cases of dental trauma to the kids, often involving the two maxillary central incisors.⁶ The progress of the occlusion in the growing phase in the kids depends upon the presence of healthy dentition. Studies have shown that main cause of traumatic dental injuries among school children is from

falls and sports activities with the maxillary incisors being most commonly involved.

A suitable and swift emergency management is remarkably vital for the juvenile and younger kids to enhance the chances of prognosis of the teeth affected by avulsion.⁷ Such a prognosis will depend on the time phase that has lapsed after the trauma happened and the medium in which the tooth was kept until a dentist was approached. It may also depend on the stage at which the tooth is and the stage of root formation. The most epitome approach is to re-implant the tooth in the oral cavity. Most of the parents have negligible knowledge with regard to the post traumatic follow up and therefore, it is essential that they are made conscious of the appropriate methods for managing such situations.⁸ Plentiful studies have been piloted in varied parts of the world and similarly this study intends to explore parental knowledge and attitudes pertaining to the emergency management of dental injuries.

The core purpose of this meticulous study is to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of the parents pertaining to the emergency management of traumatic dental injuries

MATERIAL AND METHODS: The study was performed on 597 parents' who were presented with a carefully primed questionnaire. The questionnaire was presented after receiving an ethical clearance from the committee. The form was briefly explained to all the parents and a written consent was obtained. The time

allotted was 20 minutes to fill the complete form. The study was divided based on questions on basic knowledge, approach, self-assessment, and conceivable approaches to modify the situation. The collected data was subject to detailed analysis

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Q 1: Has your child ever been involved in a traumatic dental injury?

- Yes
- No

Q 2: What is the preliminary step to be taken if the child's tooth is knocked out of the socket?

- Place it back within the socket
- Place it from under the kid's mouth
- Place it in a milk media
- Remove it completely and do not preserve it

Q 3: Would you consider seeking professional help?

- Yes
- No

Q 4: Whom would you approach first in the situation of a traumatic dental injury?

- General Dentist
- General Physician
- Pediatric Dentist
- Pediatrician

Q5: When would you pay a visit to the health professional after trauma?

- Instantaneously after trauma
- A day after trauma
- Never

Q6: Would you be willing to follow-up with the doctor for a better prognosis?

- Yes
- No

Q 7: Do you perceive the importance of time for saving an avulsed tooth?

- Yes
- No

Q.8: Do you perceive that a traumatic dental injury is an emergency situation?

- Yes
- No

Q.9: Would you be willing to undergo a short training program pertaining to the management of dental trauma to kids?

- Yes
- No

Q.10: Would you be willing to take a part to aware other parents regarding the same?

- Yes
 - No
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RESULTS: The questionnaire with the response is as follows:

Q 1: Has your child ever been involved in a traumatic dental injury?

Yes – 431 (72.19%)

No – 166 (27.81%)

Q 2: What is the preliminary step to be taken if the child's tooth is knocked out of the socket?

Place it back within the socket – 361 (60.46%)

Place it from under the kid's mouth – 27 (04.52%)

Place it in a milk media – 41 (06.86%)

Remove it completely and do not preserve it – 168(28.16%)

Q 3: Would you consider seeking professional help?

Yes – 397 (66.49%)

No- 200 (33.51%)

Q 4: Whom would you approach first in the situation of a traumatic dental injury?

General Dentist – 191 (31.99%)

General Physician – 49 (08.20%)

Pediatric Dentist – 286 (47.90%)

Pediatrician – 71 (11.91%)

Q 5: When would you pay a visit to the health professional after trauma?

Instantaneously after trauma – 394 (65.99%)

A day after trauma – 172 (28.81%)

Never – 31 (5.20%)

Q6: Would you be willing to follow-up with the doctor for a better prognosis?

Yes – 461 (77.21%)

No – 136 (22.79%)

Q 7: Do you perceive the importance of time for saving an avulsed tooth?

Yes – 201 (33.66%)

No – 396 (66.34%)

Q.8: Do you perceive that a traumatic dental injury is an emergency situation?

Yes – 497 (83.24%)

No – 100 (16.76%)

Q.9: Would you be willing to undergo a short training program pertaining to the management of dental trauma to kids?

Yes – 309 (51.75%)

No – 288 (48.25%)

Q.10: Would you be willing to take a part to aware other parents regarding the same?

Yes – 299 (50.08%)

No – 298 (49.92%)

DISCUSSION:

Indubitably, the persistent physical activity is a sign of a healthy child. In the midst of such physical activities, wounds to the facial structures is one of the jeopardies linked with it. Such inflicted dental trauma can affect both the primary and permanent dentition of the child. The efficacious intervention of the inflicted trauma to the dental structure is subject to the cautious supervision of the condition. Most of the studies have confirmed that

parents, especially mothers, present at the time of injury have an extremely little knowledge to treat and manage the traumatized child.⁹

The pervasiveness of dental injuries is over 63% out of which over 49% has been found involving the maxillary teeth.¹⁰In the current study, the parents were presented with a series of 10 questions which has been prepared after ethical clearance from the committee. The study revealed that about 72.19% of the parents had kids that had

undergone a traumatic dental injury while the remaining 27.81% parents had kids that had not undergone any traumatic dental injury so far. When asked about the preliminary step to be taken if the child's tooth is knocked out of the socket, about 60.46% of them answered to place it back in the socket which is the most appropriate response. About 4.52% of them decided to place it in the kid's mouth about 6.85% of them gave the response of putting them into the milk media. The most shocking response was given by the remaining 28.16% who answered to not preserve the tooth at all. Only 66.49% of the parents agreed to seek professional help in case of dental trauma to the kids while astonishingly about 33.51% of the parents disregarded the need for professional help, About 65.99% of the parents agreed to seek medical help the same day of the trauma and 28.81% of the parents agreed to seek medical help the next day of the trauma. However, 05.20% parents disagreed to seek medical help at all. It needs to be taken into account that financial constraint and religious beliefs could play a vital role. Surprisingly, 66.34% of the parents did not perceive the importance of time in the management of an avulsed tooth following a traumatic injury.

Besides the knowledge of the parents being below par, the attitude was also relatively disappointing. Only 51.75% of the parents were willing to undergo a training program to handle the emergency management of a traumatic dental injury to a child and only 50.08% of the parents were willing to take a part to aware other parents regarding the same.

CONCLUSION: The results obtained from the study revealed that there is a substantial lack of knowledge and awareness amongst parents pertaining to the emergency management of dental injuries. We recommend that

comprehensive enlightening informative templates should be developed and made available to all the parents.

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