Dental Task Force

Membership

Julia Anderson (JA)	Chair
Andrew Brewer (AB)	Consultant Oral Surgeon
Desmond Creagh (DC)	
Albert Cheung (AC)	Representing the Chief Dental Officer, Scotland
Susan Hook (SH)	Haemophilia Nurse Representative
Anica Philott (AP)	Haemophilia Nurse Representative
Chris James (CJ)	Haemophilia Society representative
Jason Mainwairing (JM)	
Angela McKernan (AM)	
Richard Oakley (RO)	Haemophilia Society representative
Thynn Thynn Yee (TY)	

Remit

The aims of this Task Force are to establish national guidelines for oral health and dental care in patients of all ages in the United Kingdom with congenital bleeding disorders and to make recommendations for their publication, dissemination and implementation; to consider the relevant outcomes to monitor; and to develop an audit tool to assess the effectiveness of the guidelines and their implementation.

Over the past year two new members have joined the group; Dr Albert Yeung represents the Chief Dental Officer for Scotland, who along with the deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland haS expressed support for the Task Force, and C/N Anica Philott will act as a second nurse representative.

AB and JA attended the dental sessions at World Federation of Haemophilia; a strong emphasis was placed on the use of local haemostatic agents and AB gave a State of the Art talk on this subject. Along with a session on minimally invasive dentistry, the intention is to use as much of the evidence presented at the oral communication sessions in the new guidelines. A conference call was held on August 4, and a writing group created of JA, AB, and JM, with TY, SH, AP also contributing to sections, and with DC acting as first reviewer and critique.

Recommendations for preventative strategies and treatment planning were originally developed by the Scottish Oral Health Group for the Medically Compromised and published in 2003 as a Guideline. The updated recommendations will reflect an exhaustive literature search, as well as the opinions of haemophilia treaters obtained through a survey conducted on behalf of the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation (UKHCDO) in May 2010 and information on access to dental care from the UKHCDO Triennial Audit. Where possible, evidence from the literature is graded according to the GRADE system but overall there is a lack of good quality evidence based data in this area, and most studies have methodological limitations. Therefore some recommendations will, by necessity, be based on consensus professional opinion.

Recommendations are aimed at a target audience of dentists and oral surgeons, rather than haemophilia carers. This advisory document aims to dispel a number of myths concerning the management of patients with congenital bleeding disorders, and to assist general dental surgeons to provide routine dental care for this group of patients, with the aim of improving access to dental care throughout the United Kingdom. It was felt essential that the recommendations be submitted to the British Dental Journal but the format will follow the outline for guidelines as recommended by the British Committee for Standards in Haematology.

The manuscript will provide:

a) a brief overview of the commoner forms of congenital bleeding disorders and their classification for dental practitioners

b) an outline of haemostatic agents aimed at a level for dental practitioners

c) an overview of preventative strategies with links to three main on-line documents used by dentists

d) strategies for treatment planning, and

e) local haemostatic measures

When approved by the Task Force, the recommendations will be forwarded to the UKHCDO Advisory Committee, the Haemophilia Society, the British Dental Association and other sounding boards for comments.

The subsequent dissemination of information regarding best practice in dental care has been discussed at Task Force meetings and will require engagement from a multidisciplinary team including nurses and dental practitioners. It is hoped that guidelines will be placed on the British Dental Association web-site, and on the Haemophilia Society websites with additional links to the World Federation of Haemophilia website.

A second manuscript is planned later in 2011, probably in the format of a systematic narrative review, for haemophilia treaters.

Dr Julia AM Anderson
Chair, Dental Task Force
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