

## BASCD 2022 ABSTRACT 05

### **Suicide risk and prevention of patients attending Adult Dental Trauma Clinic**

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#### **Background:**

Suicide is a significant public health concern resulting in 4,912 deaths in England (2020). Suicide risk is higher in individuals who have experienced trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and physical pain. Suicide risk assessments are not routinely conducted in dental settings, despite having unique screening opportunities.

#### **Objectives:**

To determine whether adult dental trauma patients are screened for suicide risk and signposted to services at Barts Health NHS Trust.

#### **Methods:**

A clinical audit was conducted by collecting anonymised data of 36 adult patients attending trauma clinics between September-November 2021. A template was developed which collected data on the following domains: suicide risk screening as recommended by Clinical Psychologists and whether a referral to services was offered, in order to fulfil NICE CG138 and NICE QS189.

#### **Results:**

First-cycle data demonstrates no evidence of compliance to standards and inability to map assurance levels, as none of the patient records included suicide risk assessments. Second-cycle data revealed that one patient previously had suicidal thoughts related to dental trauma. Feedback data from clinicians provided evidence of barriers to conducting risk assessments including lack of confidence and training.

#### **Conclusion:**

This audit is part of a quality improvement project to obtain baseline data on suicide prevention. Data collection obstacles include lack of confidence in asking sensitive questions, insufficient suicide prevention experience and training. Suicide prevention should be adopted by dental teams to provide patient-centred care. Training of dental teams is important to improve skills and confidence in multi-disciplinary collaboration and holistic care when dealing with at-risk patients.

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