

## BASCD 2022 ABSTRACT 09

### Exploring barriers to delivering oral hygiene advice in general dental practice

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#### **Background:**

Evidence suggests that not all dental professionals (DPs) routinely deliver oral hygiene advice (OHA); a crucial component of holistic dental care. Barriers exist to DPs giving OHA in general dental practice.

#### **Objectives:**

This study explores DPs perspectives on barriers to delivering OHA in general dental practice.

#### **Methods:**

An online convenience sample of UK DPs completed an anonymous cross-sectional questionnaire. Data is presented using descriptive statistics and chi-squared tests. Ethical approval was given by University of Bristol Faculty of Health Science Research Ethics Committee (FREC) (Ref: 104966).

#### **Results:**

Between 15 June 2020 and 15 December 2020, 154 dentists and 167 dental hygienists/therapists (DH/DT) completed the questionnaire. 85 (55.2%) of dentists and 138 (82.6%) of DH/DT agreed that undergraduate training prepared them to deliver OHA in general practice ( $p < 0.001$ ). 68.8% of dentists and 52.7% of DH/DT stated they have inadequate time to deliver OHA ( $p < 0.001$ ). The second largest barrier was patient compliance. Pay was identified as a barrier by 53.2% of dentists, but only 9.6% of DH/DT ( $p < 0.001$ ). 94.6% of DH/DT and 38.9% of dentists have done CPD on delivering OHA ( $p < 0.001$ ). 25.3% of dentists and 22.2% of DH/DT had never accessed the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit.

#### **Conclusion:**

Time and patient compliance are the biggest barriers to giving OHA in general dental practice. Pay is a barrier to dentists but not DH/DT. DH/DT felt better prepared to give OHA by their undergraduate training compared to dentists. A larger proportion of DH/DT have done CPD on delivering OHA compared to dentists.

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[https://doi.org/10.1922/CDH\\_BASCD22\\_Abstract09](https://doi.org/10.1922/CDH_BASCD22_Abstract09)