

KNOWLEDGE OF ELEMENTARY OPORTO SCHOOL TEACHERS REGARDING TRAUMATIC DENTAL INJURIES

INTRODUCTION

Dental injuries occur mostly in school therefore the level of teachers' knowledge in this area is particularly important considering that their immediate and appropriate attitude may depend the dental prognosis.

OBJECTIVES

Assess elementary teachers' knowledge, of public schools from Oporto city, about management of dental injuries and also, quantify their sociodemographic data and health care related with their knowledge in this area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Cross-sectional study that used as a meter tool a self-administered questionnaire. It was formed by two parts: the first one is related to the teachers' knowledge description; the second one is filled by questions about teachers' sociodemographic data and those health care precautions. Questionnaires were distributed in 49 schools and after their collecting, data were analyzed by a SPSS program version 21.0.

To proportion comparison between participants with different sociodemographic features and healthcare precautions were used the Chi-square test, Fisher exact test and nonparametric Mann-Whitney test. The logistic regression was used to quantify the relationship between characteristics, customs and attitudes related to teachers' health care and their knowledge about the theme through Odds Ratios (OR) and confidence intervals to 95% (IC95%), adjusted to the gender, age, school education, professional experience, tobacco custom, the annual dental medicine check-up, lost teeth and dental prosthesis use.

RESULTS

Description of sample

✓ 329 delivered questionnaires (74,9%)

✓ Female: 87,5%

✓ Age ≥ 40 years: 49,7%

✓ School education ≤ 16 years: 60,8%

✓ Professional experience between 10-19 years: 58,3%

✓ Tobacco custom: 31,3%

✓ + 10 cigarettes/day: 22,4%

✓ Annual dental medicine check-up: 90,1%

✓ Lost teeth: 90,1%

✓ Lost teeth between 1-5 teeth: 91,9%

✓ Dental treatments: 79,3%

✓ Dental treatments 1-5 teeth: 73,0%%

✓ Dental prosthesis: 18,8%

Table 1. Association between covariates and questions related to elementary teachers' knowledge about dental trauma of public schools of Oporto, Portugal.

		Witnessed dental trauma		Fragment/ Management		Avulsion/ Transport		Avulsion/ Contamination	
		Yes n/total (%)	OR (IC 95%)*	Correct n/total (%)	OR (IC95%)*	Correct n/total (%)	OR (IC 95%)*	Correct n/total (%)	OR (IC 95%)*
SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES									
Gender	Male	13/41 (31,7)	0,73 (0,33-1,60)	8/22 (36,4)	1,60 (0,52-4,92)	3/22 (13,6)	0,80 (0,21-3,09)	11/29 (37,9)	2,53 (1,04-6,13)
	Female	119/287 (41,5)	1,00	40/131 (30,5)	1,00	31/183 (16,9)	1,00	52/204 (25,5)	1,00
Age	≤ 39	53/159 (33,3)	0,48 (0,28-0,81)	27/72 (37,5)	1,74 (0,75-4,01)	20/99 (20,2)	2,21 (0,88-5,55)	29/114 (25,4)	0,73 (0,37-1,45)
	≥ 40	75/156 (48,1)	1,00	21/76 (27,6)	1,00	13/100 (13,0)	1,00	33/112 (23,4)	1,00
Tobacco Custom	No	34/99 (34,3)	1,48 (0,88-2,49)	10/39 (25,6)	1,74 (0,71-4,25)	3/66 (4,5)	6,23 (1,79-21,8)	21/70 (30,0)	0,99 (0,51-1,92)
	Yes	92/217 (42,4)	1,00	37/106 (34,9)	1,00	28/30 (21,5)	1,00	39/154 (25,3)	1,00
ORAL HEALTH CARE									
Dental Prosthesis	No	98/255 (38,4)	0,95 (0,50-1,80)	33/117 (28,2)	0,30 (0,11-0,83)	25/158 (15,8)	0,56 (0,19-1,61)	47/178 (26,4)	0,91 (0,41-2,03)
	Yes	27/59 (45,8)	1,00	12/25 (48,0)	1,00	7/39 (17,9)	1,00	13/44 (29,5)	1,00

*Adjusted OR obtained from logistic regression adjusted for covariates: gender, age, school education, professional experience, tobacco custom, annual dental medicine check-up, lost teeth and dental prosthesis.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

It's verified the existence of a low level of knowledge about dental injuries in this population and it has been found that most teachers are not qualified to manage a traumatic dental injury in school perimeter. Thus, we highlight the importance of a multidisciplinary approach involving the scientific and educational community so that latter can provide greater security of care to their students in situations of dental trauma.

Teachers, as first entity to deal with these traumatic injuries, should be trained on the subject to contribute along with the pediatric dentist for the improvement of treatment provided to the child.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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