Whole mouth extractions in children on the rise in the UK

By Dental Tribune UK

LONDON, UK: New data released by the National Health Service (NHS) has painted a bleak picture of the state of oral health in children in the UK, with 322 children under the age of ten undergoing full dental extractions in the period between 2012–2013. The British Dental Association (BDA) warned that full dental extractions are an extreme sign of the epidemic of tooth decay among children, particularly those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“It’s tragic whenever a dentist has to perform a full extraction on a child, but in many hospitals, it is simply business as usual,” said Dr Mick Armstrong, Chair of the BDA.

“Signs of the epidemic of tooth decay are among children, particularly those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds,” Armstrong said.

In response, NHS England stated that “sugary food and drinks is driving this unnecessary epidemic of extractions”.

“NHS England is working with the dental profession, local authorities and health providers on starting Well, a campaign to help children improve their dental health.”

According to the NHS’s figures, 75 children underwent full dental extractions in the period between 2007–2008, which is up from 54 children in 2012–2013. The British Dental Association (BDA) warned that full dental extractions are an extreme sign of the epidemic of tooth decay among children, particularly those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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