Oral health education by itself ineffective

By DTI

MELBOURNE, Australia: Evaluating the effectiveness of oral health promotion strategies for preventing dental caries and periodontal disease among children, researchers from the Cochrane Public Health Group have found that oral health education alone, such as classroom lessons, videos, comics and brochures, was ineffective.

The review, which was the first of its kind at an international level, included data on 137,789 children in 21 countries from studies conducted between January 1996 and April 2014. All of the studies reviewed focused on community-based oral health promotion interventions for preventing caries and periodontal disease among children from birth to 18 years of age.

The review, titled "Community-based population-level interventions for promoting child oral health," was published online on 15 September in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

"There is a general perception that oral health education will change oral health risk behaviours and promote good oral health practices," commented Dr Shalika Hegde, a research fellow at Dental Health Services Victoria in Melbourne and part of the Cochrane Public Health Group, on the findings in an article on DrBicuspid.com. "However, this thinking is fundamentally flawed, as knowledge gained alone will not lead to sustained changes in oral health," Hegde emphasised.

When coupled with other measures, such as supervised tooth-brushing with fluoridated toothpaste, oral health promotion interventions were generally found to be effective in reducing caries in children’s primary teeth. Moreover, oral health education provided in an educational setting, combined with professional preventative oral care in a dental clinic, was effective in reducing caries in children’s permanent teeth, the researchers found.

Another most promising intervention approach for reducing caries in children—although additional research is needed—appears to be improving access to fluoride in its various forms and reducing sugar consumption, Hegde told Dental Tribune. Generally, the findings of this review will have global implications in the area of models of oral health care delivery and oral health promotion, research, policy and practice, Hegde concluded.

From analysis of the results of 38 international studies, the Cochrane researchers found that oral health education as a stand-alone measure, had no significant impact on caries in permanent or primary teeth and surfaces. Nonetheless, some of the studies reported improvements in gingival health, oral hygiene behaviours and oral cleanliness, the review showed.

"There is a general perception that oral health education will change oral health risk behaviours and promote good oral health," said Dr Shalika Hegde, a research fellow at Dental Health Services Victoria in Melbourne and part of the Cochrane Public Health Group, who was treated with tooth-supported and implant-borne restorations.© Anna Hoychuk/Shutterstock.com
First Indonesia Dental Exhibition and Congress to be held in 2017

By DTI

JAKARTA, Indonesia/COLOGNE, Germany: Exclusively catering to the needs of the Indonesian dental industry and dental professionals, the country’s first comprehensive dental exhibition and congress will take place next year from 15 to 17 September at the Jakarta Convention Center. The event is being jointly organised by the Indonesian dental association (Persatuan Dokter Gigi Indonesia) and trade show organisers Koelnmesse and PT. Traya Eksibisi Internasional. It will be held in alternate years to the established IDEM Singapore, the leading dental exhibition and conference in the Asia-Pacific region.

Alongside IDEM, the Indonesia Dental Exhibition and Conference will be positioned as a designated regional event, the organisers said in a press release. It will consist of a two-day scientific conference featuring localised educational content and a three-day exhibition that will offer a platform for over 200 manufacturers to meet and do business in the emerging Indonesian dental market, which is one of the fastest growing in Asia.

“Although every edition of IDEM Singapore has enjoyed strong support from Indonesian dental professionals we have come to recognise that there is still unrealised potential in the Indonesian market. Its healthcare industry is expected to grow by up to 20 per cent yearly, which points to an emerging need for a platform for dental professionals to learn more about well-established and effective technologies, research and skills,” Koelnmesse Managing Director Mathias Kuepper remarked.

Commenting on the decision to stage the new dental event, Dr Farichah Hanum, president of the Indonesian dental association, said that, by collaborating with two established exhibition organisers, dentistry in the country will hopefully be taken to new heights. “Indonesia has over 27,000 dentists nationwide, who face unique challenges in their daily practice,” Hanum said. The city of Jakarta – representing over 5,000 dentists alone – was chosen to host the event because it is the country’s central business and travel hub, he explained.

More information about the exhibition and the scientific programme will soon be available at www.indonesiadedentaletspo.com.

Accuracy of optical scans and conventional silicone impressions

By DTI

IWATE, Japan: Aiming to evaluate the accuracy of optical scans and conventional silicone impressions, researchers from Iwate University have come to recognise that there is still unrealised potential in the Indonesian market. Its healthcare industry is expected to grow by up to 20 per cent yearly, which points to an emerging need for a platform for dental professionals to learn more about well-established and effective technologies, research and skills,” Koelnmesse Managing Director Mathias Kuepper remarked.

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