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Assessment of Dental Care in Children with Congenital Heart Disease

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Assessment of Routine Dental Care in Children with Congenital Heart Disease in a Small to Moderate Sized Outpatient Cardiology Practice

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INTRODUCTION

- The incidence of infective endocarditis (IE) is significantly higher in patients with congenital heart disease (CHD).
- Suboptimal oral health is a risk factor for IE in adults with CHD.
- Children with CHD have higher levels of untreated oral disease.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify factors that affect dental care compliance: age, sex, severity of CHD, repair/palliation, qualification for prophylactic antibiotics.

METHODS

- Retrospective chart review spanning 1 year.
- 234 patients
- Information obtained from clinic intake form
- Data analyzed using descriptive statistics

Dental care is particularly important in this population to **reduce the risk of infective endocarditis -** but **compliance** in this population **is poor**, especially younger ages.

RESULTS

- 65.8% of CHD patients reported regular dental care.
- Odds of dental care compliance increase 1.3x for every year increase in age.
- Other variables did not demonstrate significant association.

DISCUSSION

- CHD population is less compliant with routine dental care compared to general population (65.8% vs. 84.9%).
- Odds of compliance with routine dental care increase with age.
- Younger population is vulnerable, and still at risk for IE.
- Noncompliance is likely multifactorial.

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