

An investigation into possible factors that may correlate to the potential prescription of antibiotics for the urgent treatment of acute dental pain in adults in the primary dental care (PDC) settings in the UK (copy)

Page 1: Participant Letter

Introduction to the survey (and a bit of GDPR info)



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Dear Colleague,

I would like to request your assistance with my MSc research project entitled:

An investigation into possible factors that may correlate to the potential use of antibiotics in the urgent treatment of acute dental pain in adults in the primary dental care settings in the UK

Please, could you read the following information sheet regarding the research questionnaire and, if happy to do so, please proceed to the questionnaire which can be found via the link provided below? Your involvement is purely voluntary; you are perfectly entitled not to take the survey. You have the right to withdraw from the survey at any time until submission at which point, due to the anonymous nature of the survey withdrawal is impossible.

The research requires honest answers and, as such, offers total anonymity in your responses.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution to this research project.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Kerr BDS

Page 2: Participant Information Sheet

Information regarding the Survey

Study Title

An investigation into possible factors that may correlate to the potential prescription of antibiotics for the urgent treatment of acute dental pain in adults in the primary dental care settings in the UK

Invitation

You are invited to take part in this research project which forms part of my MSc in Advanced and Specialist Healthcare (Applied Dental Practice) at the University of Kent.

You are invited to take part but do not have to if you do not wish to; there are no disadvantages to you choose not to participate.

What is the purpose of the Study?

The study aims to look at how adults attending with urgent, acute dental pain are managed in primary dental care settings and compare this to any currently available guidance. It will assess the impact, if any, of various factors that are outlined in the survey.

Why have you been invited to take part?

Your practice is listed as being within the areas of Kent and East Sussex. The questionnaire will be sent to all of the dentists/practices listed as operating in this area to gather as much information as possible from as broad a field of dental practices as possible.

Do I have to take part?

While your help would be greatly appreciated and would assist in furthering our knowledge of how emergency pain is currently being managed, participation is completely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the survey at any time until submission at which point, due to the anonymous nature of the survey withdrawal is impossible. I am happy to discuss any aspect of this study and questionnaire with you, and if you are unsure of anything, please do contact me before completing the questionnaire. I am happy to discuss any aspect of this study and questionnaire with you, and if you are unsure of anything, please do contact me before completing the questionnaire.

Incentives

There are no incentives available for taking part; your participation is entirely voluntary.

Will my participation be confidential?

The questionnaire will remain anonymous as no personal detail or contact information is required.

What are the risks and benefits of taking part?

There are no foreseeable risks involved in taking part in this study. It is anticipated that completing the questionnaire will take approximately 3 minutes. While there is no direct benefit to each individual who completes the questionnaire, it is hoped that the knowledge gained from the research will help us identify ways that we can improve the outcomes, for both dentist and patient, when adults attend for emergency appointments.

How is the project funded?

The project is entirely self-funded. There are no sponsors or contributors.

What will happen to the results?

It is hoped that the results will be used as part of my MSc project and may, if suitable, be used as part of a publication in a peer-reviewed journal. If you would like to see the results of the anonymised data, then please contact the principal investigator via the email listed below. (The results will be stored for no longer than four years).

Can you withdraw from this study if you change your mind?

The questionnaire is entirely anonymous, so it will not be possible to identify any individual response. Any completed questionnaires will remain part of the study once they have been submitted.

What should you do if you have a concern regarding this study?

If any potential participant has any concern or complaint relating to the content of the questionnaire or the approach of the research, then they should contact the Module Director Debbie Reed via d.reed@kent.ac.uk

Principal researcher email: ik240@kent.ac.uk

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Page 3: GDPR Statement

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy notice for research – University-level

As a university, we use personally identifiable information to conduct research, including to improve health, care and services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

The University Charter

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/governance/about/constitutionandmanagement.html>

sets out that ‘the objects of the University are to advance education and disseminate knowledge by teaching, scholarship and research for the public benefit’ (paragraph 3). *Health and care research should serve the public interest, which means that we have to demonstrate that our research serves the interests of society as a whole. We do this by following the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/uk-policy-framework-health-social-care-research/>

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).

The University of Kent’s Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/infocompliance/dp/staff-info/staff-info.html>

Page 4: Survey Questionnaire: Please complete only once

Consent: 3 Questions

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the purposes of this research and have had the opportunity to consider the information and my involvement

* *Required*

Yes

No

1.a. I understand that my involvement is voluntary, and I consent to participate in this study for research purposes * *Required*

Yes

No

1.b. I currently practice dentistry in the UK as a GDP in a primary care setting (NHS or Mixed or Private practice) * *Required*

Yes

No

Section 1: Practitioner Background 6 questions

2. Q1: Which year did you qualify? (Primary Dental Degree) * *Required*

3. Q2: Which Dental School did you qualify from? * *Required*

4. Q3: Do you have any additional college or university backed post-graduate dental qualifications (Diploma, Fellowship, MSc, M Clin Dent, PhD)? * *Required*

Yes

No

5. Q4: Are you registered on a specialist list(s) with the GDC? * *Required*

Yes

No

6. Q5 Approximately what percentage of your practice income (if any) comes from NHS practice,? * *Required*

7. Q6 Approximately what percentage of your practice income (if any) comes from private practice,? * *Required*

Section 2 Practice strategy for managing acute dental pain as an emergency appointment: 7 Questions in total

8. Q1: Does your practice have a policy to see patients with severe dental pain on the

day that they call? * *Required*

- Yes No

9. Q2: Does your practice have a scripted triage sheet for use by the reception team to ascertain the type and extent of pain being experienced by the patient? * *Required*

- Yes No

9.a. If yes, is it used regularly and routinely? *Optional*

- Yes No

10. Q3: Does your day list include designated emergency appointment slots for patients who phone in with acute, severe pain? * *Required*

- yes No

10.a. If yes, how long in minutes would you allocate for these allocated emergency spaces? *Optional*

10.a.i. If no, then how long would you expect to allocate for an urgent appointment to be seen on the day? *Optional*

11. Q4: If the patient is seen under an NHS contract does this shorten the time allocated for treatment compared to a private patient? * *Required*

Yes

No

Not applicable as no NHS contract or do not see private patients

Section 3 Management of 2 distinct clinical scenarios

Please read the brief outline of two clinical scenarios that can be considered typical or representative of an adult patient attending with severe dental pain for an emergency dental appointment. There are three simple questions to answer after each one then we are done with the survey!

Clinical Scenario 1

A fit and healthy 52-year old male patient with no relevant medical history requests an emergency appointment complaining of severe dental pain that is exacerbated significantly by drinking tea but eased slightly by swilling cold water around his mouth. The pain has developed over the past three days and kept him awake last night. He describes the pain as sharp and stabbing and can be spontaneous in nature; the pain spreads from his chin to his ear on the right side of his face. He cannot say which tooth is to blame but thinks it may be coming from a lower back one; biting does not make the pain worse. He has been taking ibuprofen tablets and reports that these give him about 45 minutes relief.

On examination, he is seen to have a large, untreated carious cavity in his lower right first molar. The gingival health appears good, and the tooth is not mobile, and no swelling is noted on intra or extraoral examination. A periapical radiograph taken at the time of examination reveals an intact lamina dura around the apices of both roots of this tooth. The tooth is in function and appears to be in a restorable condition.

12. Q1: Under normal circumstances how long an appointment would you expect to allocate to this dental scenario? * *Required*

13. Q2: How likely would you rate the chances of you prescribing a course of antibiotics to manage this case? * *Required*

Please select exactly 1 answer(s).

- No likelihood Highly Unlikely Highly Likely
 Certain

14. Q3: How would you rate your chances of achieving adequate anaesthesia to allow operative treatment of this tooth? * *Required*

Please select exactly 1 answer(s).

- No likelihood Highly Unlikely Highly Likely
 Certain

Clinical Scenario 2

A fit and healthy 43- year old female patient calls reporting severe dental pain and request urgent treatment.

She reports that the pain has developed over the past 48 hours and describes it as a deep, throbbing pain that comes in waves. It is spontaneous in nature and is not made worse by hot or cold. The patient is certain that the lower first molar is to blame as it feels tender when she pushes against it with her finger and when she bites down hard against it. Anti-inflammatory medication provides some relief from the pain but is needed every couple of hours to keep it under control.

Examination shows that the first molar has been restored with a full coverage porcelain fused to metal crown which appears clinically sound. The gingival health appears good, and the tooth is not mobile, and no swelling is noted on intra or extraoral examination. A periapical radiograph reveals very slight widening of the periodontal membrane space around the distal root when compared to adjacent apices. The patient is distressed by the level of pain that she is in but does not appear systemically unwell.

15. Q1: Under normal circumstances how long an appointment would you expect to allocate to this dental scenario? * *Required*

16. Q2: How likely would you rate the chances of you prescribing a course of antibiotics to manage this case? * *Required*

Please select exactly 1 answer(s).

No likelihood

Highly Unlikely

Highly Likely

Certain

17. Q3: How would you rate your chances of achieving adequate anaesthesia to allow operative treatment of this tooth? * *Required*

Please select exactly 1 answer(s).

No likelihood

Highly Unlikely

Highly Likely

Certain

Page 5: Final page

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey.

Your answers will help develop further informed debate about the role that antibiotics have in the management of acute dental pain in adults.

No personal identifiable data relating to you have been recorded via this survey.

Thank you once again for your time and assistance; it is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Ian

Key for selection options

6 - Q5 Approximately what percentage of your practice income (if any) comes from NHS practice,?

- 0%
- 0-24%
- 25- 49%
- 50- 74%
- 75-100%

7 - Q6 Approximately what percentage of your practice income (if any) comes from private practice,?

- 0%
- 0-24%
- 25-49%
- 50-74%
- 75-100%

10.a - If yes, how long in minutes would you allocate for these allocated emergency spaces

- 5-19 minutes

- 20-29 minutes
- 30-44 minutes
- 45-60 minutes
- Over 60 minutes

12 - Q1: Under normal circumstances how long an appointment would you expect to allocate to this dental scenario?

- 5-19 minutes
- 20-29 minutes
- 30-44 minutes
- 45-60 minutes
- Over 60 minutes

15 - Q1: Under normal circumstances how long an appointment would you expect to allocate to this dental scenario?

- 5-19 minutes
 - 20-29 minutes
 - 30-44 minutes
 - 45-60 minutes
 - over 60 minutes
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