

## The prevalence of neglected dentitions in children as perceived by HSE primary care dentists in Ireland

### PRÉCIS

HSE primary care dentists reported seeing neglected dentitions in children very often. More resources for oral health services, greater guidance and more multidisciplinary involvement are required.

### ABSTRACT

**Statement of the problem:** Children presenting with neglected dentitions still remains a common occurrence in paediatric dentistry. Dental neglect has comparatively recently been recognised as a child protection issue. Lack of access to services and oral health improvement programmes, along with cultural and educational barriers, contribute to the majority of neglected dentitions observed in children. Dentists need to be aware that a small proportion of children may suffer dental neglect because of parental neglect and will require appropriate follow-up. Awareness of dental neglect is important to help improve the oral health of the most vulnerable children in our society.

**Purpose of the study:** To report the prevalence of neglected dentitions in children, as perceived by HSE primary care dentists in Ireland.

**Materials and methods:** Two cross-sectional surveys using web-based anonymous questionnaires were sent to all HSE primary care dental managers (n=17) and all HSE senior and general dentists (n=239) in Ireland.

**Results:** Some 64.7% (n=11) of managers and 28% (n=67) of HSE dentists returned questionnaires. A total of 61.5% (n=40) of the HSE dentists who responded (n=65) reported seeing neglected dentitions at least once a week in their clinics. In all, 38.7% (n=24) of dentists who responded (n=62) reported seeing children a great deal or a moderate amount of the time, with neglected dentitions, who presented late with a serious dental problem. HSE dentists and their managers requested more resources for oral health, a more targeted approach, greater guidance and more multidisciplinary involvement in order to assist in managing children with neglected dentitions.

**Conclusions:** Neglected dentitions in children are observed often by HSE primary care dentists in Ireland.

**Key words:** dentist; public dental service; HSE; reporting; child protection; abuse; dental neglect; neglected dentitions.

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## Autotransplantation of premolars in children with congenitally absent teeth: a report of three cases

### PRÉCIS

Three cases are presented in which autotransplantation of teeth was used as part of an orthodontic treatment plan. This treatment option is commonly overlooked when patients present with congenitally absent teeth.

### ABSTRACT

Autotransplantation of teeth is a well-established and predictable procedure, which is occasionally indicated but is often overlooked. When teeth are absent in growing patients, autotransplantation should be considered if a healthy tooth is to be extracted elsewhere in the mouth and if there is enough bone available at the edentulous site to accommodate it. A transplanted tooth will continue to erupt and will stimulate localised alveolar development. Transplanted teeth can be moved orthodontically and their long-term survival rate compares well with any other form of tooth replacement. Three cases are presented here where the author transplanted premolar teeth and subsequently moved these as part of an orthodontic treatment plan.

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