

Use and waste management of restorative materials in the Republic of Ireland

Précis

This study found that dentists in Ireland are largely compliant with EU Waste Directive 2008/98/EC relating to dental amalgam.

Abstract

Aim: This study aimed to investigate the use and waste management of dental amalgam and mercury-free alternatives by general dental practitioners in Ireland.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey-based study was adopted. A 53-question survey was piloted and distributed to dentists working in general dentistry in Ireland. Participants were recruited from the Dental Council of Ireland Dental Register.

Results: A total of 285 dentists (12%) responded to the survey. The study found that resin composite was the most commonly placed restorative material by respondents (69%), followed by dental amalgam (20%). Compliance with waste management of dental amalgam was high, with 93% of respondents reporting having a waste management policy concerning the disposal of waste amalgam and 87% compliance with the fitting of amalgam separators.

Conclusions: The study found that dentists in Ireland are compliant with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and identified training and remuneration as two of the main barriers to implementing a total phase-out of dental amalgam.

Journal of the Irish Dental Association February/March 2020; 66 (1): 29-35



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Contemporary management options for molar incisor hypomineralisation

Précis

Management of molar incisor hypomineralisation (MIH) in children is challenging and dentists need to be aware of a wide range of contemporary treatment options.

Abstract

Background: Molar incisor hypomineralisation (MIH) is a well-known and prevalent qualitative enamel defect, which can carry a heavy treatment burden for many patients. Early identification of MIH is paramount in order to instigate preventive regimes and potentially spare children from the restorative cycle many endure. Once enamel breakdown occurs management is challenging, as all cases present different individual considerations, from behaviour management issues to restorative decisions. The aim of this article was to review the recent literature on MIH in order to give the reader an update on contemporary management options for MIH-affected molars and incisors, and their evidence base.

Conclusion: Effective management can be very difficult for the clinician and there are limited treatment guidelines available. The individual needs of the patient will often dictate the most appropriate management and therefore clinicians need to be aware of all available options.

Journal of the Irish Dental Association February/March 2020; 66 (1): 36-43



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