

Preventive dental care of children undergoing general anaesthesia for extraction of carious teeth.

Lauren Reeve-Brook

The aim of the project was to assess the need for, and to evaluate parental attitudes to, the introduction of a routine appointment to advise them about future dental care of their children following extraction of carious teeth under general anaesthesia.

Children referred to Bristol Dental Hospital for extractions under general anaesthesia were invited, with a parent, to attend either a pre- or a post-operative appointment, or were interviewed by telephone. A questionnaire was completed regarding parental attitudes to the appointment, their preference for either a pre- or post-operative appointment, and their previous experience of preventive dental care and advice.

Thirty six questionnaires were completed. Overall, 32 parents (89%) found the appointment useful and 28 (78%) felt that they would improve their child's dental care at home. Fourteen (39%) preferred a pre- and 6 (17%) a post-operative appointment, and the others were not sure. Twenty (56%) reported not having received any previous advice on preventive dental care.

In conclusion, the findings suggest that the introduction of a pre-operative appointment would be well accepted by parents and children. A larger study would be needed to evaluate the benefits.