

Comparing the Attitudes of Dental Students from Japan to those from the UK and Brazil When Managing Patients with Inherited Bleeding Disorders.

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Abstract

Introduction and Objectives: There continues to be a lack the confidence in the dental profession when treating patients with Inherited Bleeding Disorders (IBD). This causes barriers to primary dental care for this group of patients. This study used a prospective undergraduate student survey, previously validated in the UK and Brazil, to evaluate the level of academic knowledge and confidence in managing patients with IBD in Japan.

Method: Final year dental students were surveyed in Japan (n=41) and their responses were analysed and compared to previously reported data from the UK (n=41) and Brazil (n=32), to compare confidence and knowledge regarding treating patients with IBD.

Results: 44% of Japanese undergraduates compared to 34% of Brazilian and 63% of UK undergraduates felt confident to provide periodontal treatment. 41% of students in Japan would refer patients to hospital for periodontal treatment as opposed to 66% in Brazil and 29% in the UK. Only 6% of all students were confident to provide extractions and 17.5% were confident with procedures needing inferior dental blocks. 76% of students from Japan, 84% of students from Brazil and 93% of students from the UK were afraid to provide treatment due to fears of uncontrollable bleeding. Less Brazilian students feared litigation (16%), pressures from their practice managers (9%) and complaints (6%) than those in the UK and Japan. 75% of all students would feel more confident with more discussion on current guidelines in their curriculum. Students in Japan (80%) similarly agreed to those in Brazil (84%), and the UK (95%) that better communication with the patient's haematologist would improve their confidence.

Conclusion: The new Japanese data supports the findings from the previous survey that a high proportion of students are fearful of being able to manage bleeding complications. In particular, the provision of routine periodontal maintenance was a source of uncertainty for all cohorts. Interestingly students in the UK and Japan were more fearful of litigation and reprimand from seniors than in Brazil which could be explained by cultural differences. All the students agreed that better communication with the patients' haematologist would improve their confidence. This study further demonstrates a need to improve the teaching of managing IBDs in undergraduate curriculums on a global scale.