Awareness of avulsion management: A questionnaire study

Deepthi K\textsuperscript{1}, Bikash Jyoti Borthakur\textsuperscript{2}, Swathi B\textsuperscript{3}, Ganesan S\textsuperscript{4}

Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Dental Sciences, Pondicherry, India.

Commentary:

Avulsion, one of the commonly encountered traumatic dental injuries, may cause both functional and esthetic problems. The incidence of avulsion varies from 0.5-3\% of traumatic injuries in permanent dentition and 7-13\% in the primary dentition\textsuperscript{1,2}. The main etiological factors for avulsion are sports and fight injuries\textsuperscript{3,4}. So, knowledge and awareness regarding avulsion and its immediate management among physical educators are crucial for a good prognosis\textsuperscript{5}.

The present study aimed to conduct a questionnaire survey to assess the knowledge and awareness of physical educators in Pondicherry regarding the immediate management of avulsed teeth. The study sample comprised physical educators randomly selected from government and private sports coaching centers in Pondicherry and a questionnaire survey was conducted, which consisted of two parts with a total of 20 questions. Part-I included basic demographic information and Part-II included questions regarding the management of avulsed tooth.

Among the 60 physical educators, all had received formal educational training, 81\% formally trained with handling first aid situations. But only 31\% had been trained towards dental first aid. Although 71\% of Physical educators considered Avulsion to be a dental emergency, only 13\% responded with the immediate necessity to reposition the tooth and 58\% responded that saving and re-positioning of the same was not a necessity. While 18\% reported attempting self – repositioning, 38\% responded to approaching dental clinics for first aid. Regarding cleaning of the tooth, a response rate 80\% was obtained for using tap water and 45\% responded with using the same as transport media. When offered to educate and create awareness regarding the management of avulsed tooth, 100\% willingness and participation to gain insight into the same was appreciated, following which, a briefing of avulsed tooth management was given to all the respondents. The knowledge and awareness of physical educators regarding avulsion management are limited in several aspects and therefore, should be educated regarding the management of the issue, which should also form a part of their training curriculum to improve the prognosis of the tooth.

References

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Corresponding Author:
Deepthi K,
Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics,
Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Dental Sciences,
Pondicherry, India
Email id: dr.deepthikangarajan@gmail.com