

Title of Intervention: A School-based Oral Health Intervention for Students in a Developing Country

Intervention Strategies: Group Education, Supportive Relationships

Purpose of the Intervention: To reduce negative oral health outcomes in children

Population: Chinese grade school children in grade one

Setting: Primary schools in the Hongshan District of Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; school-based

Partners: The WHO Collaborating Center for Community Oral Health Programmes and Research, University of Copenhagen

Intervention Description:

- Group Education: Children received monthly education sessions and daily tooth brushing supervision. In addition, children received sugar-free chewing gum.
- Supportive Relationships: Parents were encouraged to be present during oral health instructions. Family responsibility for oral health was stressed.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Teachers
- Training: Program training for teachers
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Classrooms
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Sugar-free gum
- Evaluation: Clinical equipment

Evaluation:

- Design: Randomized controlled trial
- Methods and Measures:
 - Oral examinations to measure cavities and gingivitis

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Cavities were reduced significantly in the intervention group. Bleeding gum scores were significantly lower for the children in the intervention group.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: The implementation of such a school-based program may be a relevant approach to further improve the oral health behavior and status of young children, particularly in developing countries with limited resources for formal oral health care.

Citation(s):

Peng, B., P. E. Petersen, et al. (2004). "Can school-based oral health education and a sugar-free chewing gum program improve oral health? Results from a two-year study in PR China." *Acta Odontol Scand* 62(6): 328-32.