

## eviDent Assists With Your CPD

Dental Practice Based Research Network

The Dental Practice Based Research Network, eviDent, has recorded a significant milestone - the publication in the International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry of a paper recording a major research project undertaken by the network.

The paper is on the distribution and severity of molar hypomineralisation. To mark the significance of the research and its worldwide recognition, the paper has been used to form this month's Clinical Update which you'll find in the centre of this newsletter - Thanks to Dr Aaron Martin for condensing the article.

Molar-Incisor Hypomineralisation (MIH) and Molar Hypomineralisation (MH) are two related conditions affecting first permanent molars. The exact causal factors are still unknown, so primary prevention is difficult. Many of these teeth provide great clinical challenges as they are sensitive, difficult to anaesthetise and restorations fail readily.

Currently, no validated index exists to guide clinicians in managing affected dentitions, and treatment is based upon individual judgment. The recently-developed MHSI is based upon clinical characteristics of hypomineralised defects and judgment criteria of the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry. This study sought to assess the value of the MHSI by characterising affected cases followed by their treatment independent of the Index.

The study provided a detailed description of six characteristics of hypomineralisation of first permanent molars (FPMs) and permanent incisors. The condition was found to conform to a spectrum of increasing severity from MH to MIH. Mild MH may be treated by remineralisation and fissure sealants, whereas moderate or severe MH molar require restorations or extractions. Trial of the MHSI found the Index was predictive of treatment undertaken for affected FPMs and the Index can guide clinical management of affected children.

This exemplifies the primary objective of each eviDent project - to strengthen our knowledge base for clinical decision-making and to aid in policy development.

## IMPACT Oral Cancer

Oral cancer is the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in the world for males and females respectively. This disease is more common in disadvantaged groups, who have higher rates of known risk factors, including smoking, drinking and low dental care access. Oral cancer is difficult to detect, remaining undiagnosed until well advanced. The prognosis is therefore often poor, with severe health and economic impacts for patients and their families.

Thanks to the generosity of the Percy Baxter Charitable Trust (through Perpetual's 2015 IMPACT Philanthropy Application Program), an eviDent project, 'The Oral Cancer Risk Test: an improved approach to early oral cancer detection and prevention' aims to:

- assess the Oral Cancer Risk Test's (OCRT) ability to differentiate between patients who are known to have oral cancer and patients who do not; and
- detect patients with early stage oral cancer or high risk of developing this disease.

The OCRT examines for oral cancer and future disease risks. With earlier diagnosis, treatment and prognosis is enormously improved. People at high risk of developing oral cancer will be encouraged to modify their risk behaviours, and so may never develop this disease. This early intervention strategy will significantly reduce oral cancer health and economic impacts.

Participating dentists will use a tablet device to input data from the OCRT, including a photo of a completed saliva test, an oral exam and a behaviour risk assessment. Patients with potentially cancerous oral lesions will have appropriate clinical investigation and follow up.

It is anticipated this project will:

- have enormous impact in oral cancer risk assessment and oral cancer outcomes; and
- reduce the health and economic impacts of oral cancer.

For more information about eviDent and its projects visit [www.evident.net.au](http://www.evident.net.au)

**Can you assist** by donating something that can be auctioned at the eviDent Fundraising Dinner on 17 June 2016?

- A bottle of wine you've been cellaring?
- A holiday home that you can offer for a period of time?
- Tickets to something?

**If you can assist, please contact: Meaghan Quinn**  
**E: [ask@evident.net.au](mailto:ask@evident.net.au)**  
**T: 03 8825 4603**

All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. All profits from the event will help eviDent to improve the oral and general health of your patients.

Um, uh, uh, pardon me, but, uh, would you mind helping me, please? Yoo-hoo. Yoo-hoo! Help me. Please! Won't you—Help me!

ACN 152 078 487 | ABN 81 152 078 487 | Fundraiser No. 11984.15 (valid 6 June 2015-5 June 2018)

**eviDent** Foundation  
 The Australian Taxation Office has endorsed the eviDent Foundation as a Health Promotion Charity



From left: Caitriona Fay, Perpetual National Manager – Philanthropy, and Prof Michael McCullough, eviDent Chief Investigator, discuss the intricacies of the project.