Advancing Oral Health for Medically-Complex Latinx Children

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Learning Objectives

IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS FOR DENTAL CARIES AS WELL AS A VULNERABLE POPULATION

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH A MEDICAL-DENTAL COLLABORATION MODEL

LEARN HOW SOCIAL MEDIA CAN ENHANCE COMMUNITY PATIENT HEALTH EDUCATION
Background

- Most common chronic condition of childhood: dental caries
- Challenging to prioritize in children with medical complexity
- Disparities related to race/ethnicity, language barrier, insurance

- ~140 medically complex Latinx patients at Center for Pediatric Medicine
Aims

• 30 Latinx children with medical complexity will schedule appointments with a dental provider
  • Identify barriers to care
  • Develop a referral algorithm

• Provide oral health education to local Latinx community
  • Reach 500 families via Facebook Live events
Methods

- Identify existing resources and build new partnerships
- Identify medically-complex Latinx children with dental needs
- Complete Barriers to Care Questionnaire (BCQ)
- Collaborate with PASOS and local providers to perform initial evaluation
- Partner with UofSC SOM-Greenville Juntos Group
- Create “safety-net” list of providers for acute needs
- Develop referral algorithm for dental needs
Example Case

16 y.o. male, Spanish-speaking family, uninsured

Prior dental abscess 2020, pro bono emergency extraction

Dental pain, difficulty connecting to dental home

Greenville Tech Dental Hygiene Day 11/17/21, taxi provided, PASOs and student volunteer present. Unable to complete exam.

PASOs set up appt with Community Peds Dentist with hospital privileges week of 12/9, 1 cavity on exam, no sedation needed. Dentist was excited to hear about our program and expressed wanting to be involved.

Apple Seeds Desensitization Day 1/22.

Team meeting to discuss next steps
Results

10/28 families completed BCQ (36%)

78% felt healthcare system worked well

70% cited challenges
1. Language barrier
2. Paperwork completion, understanding orders, meeting other family member needs, navigating healthcare system

Presented at 2022 AAP NCE
Three Facebook Live events over the Spring of 2022.
Oral Health Education
Successes & Conclusions

• Created stronger medical-dental collaboration in our community by partnering with existing dental resources
• Developed a sustainable referral algorithm
• Increased awareness of the importance of dental health in our patients AND increased awareness of our patient's special dental needs to our community dental providers
Next Steps

• Continue using BCQ before and after dental care
• Roll-out of algorithm at CPM, potential expansion into school-based health and OB clinics
• Potential use of New Horizons Mobile Dental Unit
• Statewide medical-dental collaboration?
Questions?

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References


