

## Pink, Perfuse and Clean Little Mouths: Measuring the Impact of Pediatric SLT through Pilot of New Oral Hygiene TOM

Jones K and Peck M

Barts Health NHS Trust, UK

Originally Presented at UKSRG-2020 Conference held at Institute of Child Health, London, UK during February 6-7, 2020.

### Abstract

**Background:** Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) regularly assess oral hygiene and provide individualized mouth care plans for children with dysphagia in hospital, but there is no published outcome measure to capture this intervention.

**Aim:** To review whether Oral Hygiene 'in development' TOM is a suitable outcome measure within the acute pediatric setting.

**Method:** Oral Hygiene TOM scale created (with permission Enderby 2015) from evidence base by Acute Pediatric SLT team at tertiary hospital in London, UK. A pilot study of 9 months recorded age, medical diagnosis and initial and final TOM for any child referred with dysphagia, for who on assessment required mouth care intervention during hospital admission. Retrospective RCSLT Online Outcome Tool (ROOT) and thematic analysis of data has been done.

**Results:** N=15. Age range=4 months–15 years. Medical diagnosis = 3 tracheostomy, 4 ABI, 3 progressive neurology, 5 congenital neurology. ROOT analysis: Impairment=Up 60%, Same 33%, Down 7%; Activity=Up 40%, Same 40%, Down 20%; Participation=Up 80%, Same 20%; Wellbeing=Up 73%, Same 20%, Down 7%. Initially 73% showed severe-moderate distress and 86% either unable to/had limited participation with mouth care. SLT assessment identified 60% required >1 specialist protocol e.g. suction, products and/or increased frequency. At discharge 73% showed mild occasional/no inappropriate distress and were mostly confident/achieving potential with mouth care.

**Conclusion:** Pilot study indicates application of Oral Hygiene TOM is suitable for wide pediatric age range with a neurological diagnosis in hospital. Improvement in participation and wellbeing following SLT intervention captured. Further analysis may provide insight into impact on dysphagia and wider healthcare outcomes.

**Citation:** Jones K, Peck M. Pink, Perfuse and Clean Little Mouths: Measuring the Impact of Pediatric SLT through Pilot of New Oral Hygiene TOM. Proceedings of UKSRG-2020; 2020 Feb 6-7; London, UK. World J Oral Health Dent. 2020;2(S1):A018.