Inter-Nordic Collaboration on Education in Oral Health in Rare Medical Conditions for Dental Hygienist Students

A project using video conferences



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Introduction

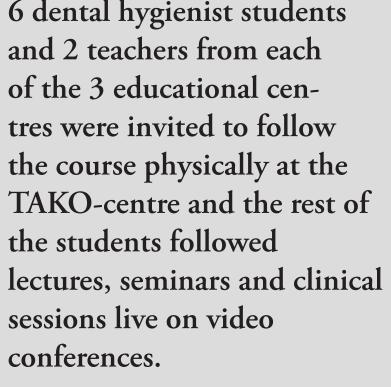
NORD-plus Network on Oral Health is a collaboration between the dental hygienist educational programmes in Oslo in Norway, Falun in Sweden, and Åbo/Turku in Finland. The collaboration was started in 1993, and has had numerous projects. The collaboration has been partly financially supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

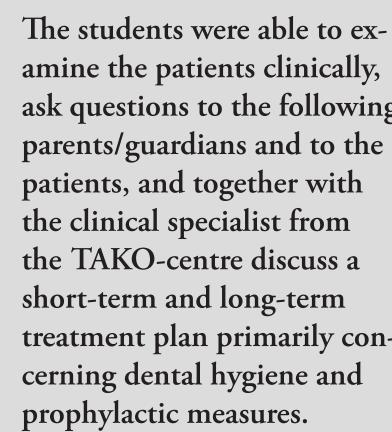
DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

The TAKO-centre (Resource centre for oral health in rare medical conditions) at the Lovisenberg Diakonale Hospital, Oslo, Norway, was invited by the NORD-plus collaboration to give a comprehensive full week course of oral health in rare medical diagnoses and the dental hygienist's role in the dental care for persons with rare diagnoses. The course was held in February 2008.

6 dental hygienist students and 2 teachers from each of the 3 educational centres were invited to follow the course physically at the TAKO-centre and the rest of the students followed sessions live on video

The students attended a wide range of lectures (see topic list on the right). The students also participated in seminars about how to find relevant literature about rare diagnoses in the library,





situated in Falun, Åbo/Turku



in databases and on the internet as well as seminars on different aids for positioning disabled patients comfortable in the dental chair, and different kinds of dental hygiene devices on the mar-

The students present in Oslo also actively participated in 4 clinical sessions in which patients with different rare diagnoses previously lectured on, were invited.

ket and how to adjust these

to the individual patient.

ask questions to the following parents/guardians and to the treatment plan primarily con-

The rest of the students and Oslo were able to follow some of the in total 16 clinical sessions on video conferences.

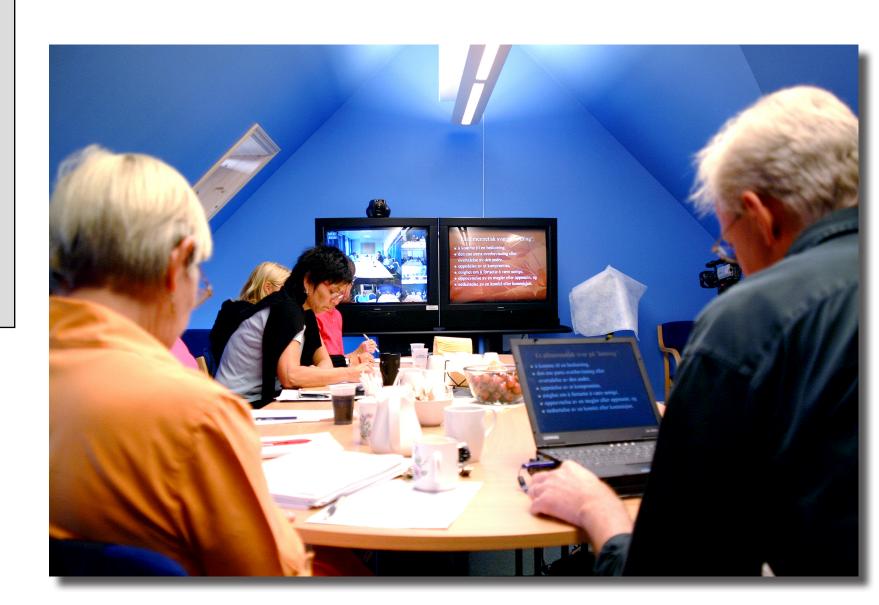
The students were asked to choose one of the patients they had met in the clinical sessions for a presentation for the other students on the last day of the course. The students made excellent presentations which included a presentation of the particular diagnosis, a brief summery of the anamnestic data, the present oral status and a suggestion for a treatment plan. The presentations included clinical pictures and oral radiographs taken previously or during the clinical session.

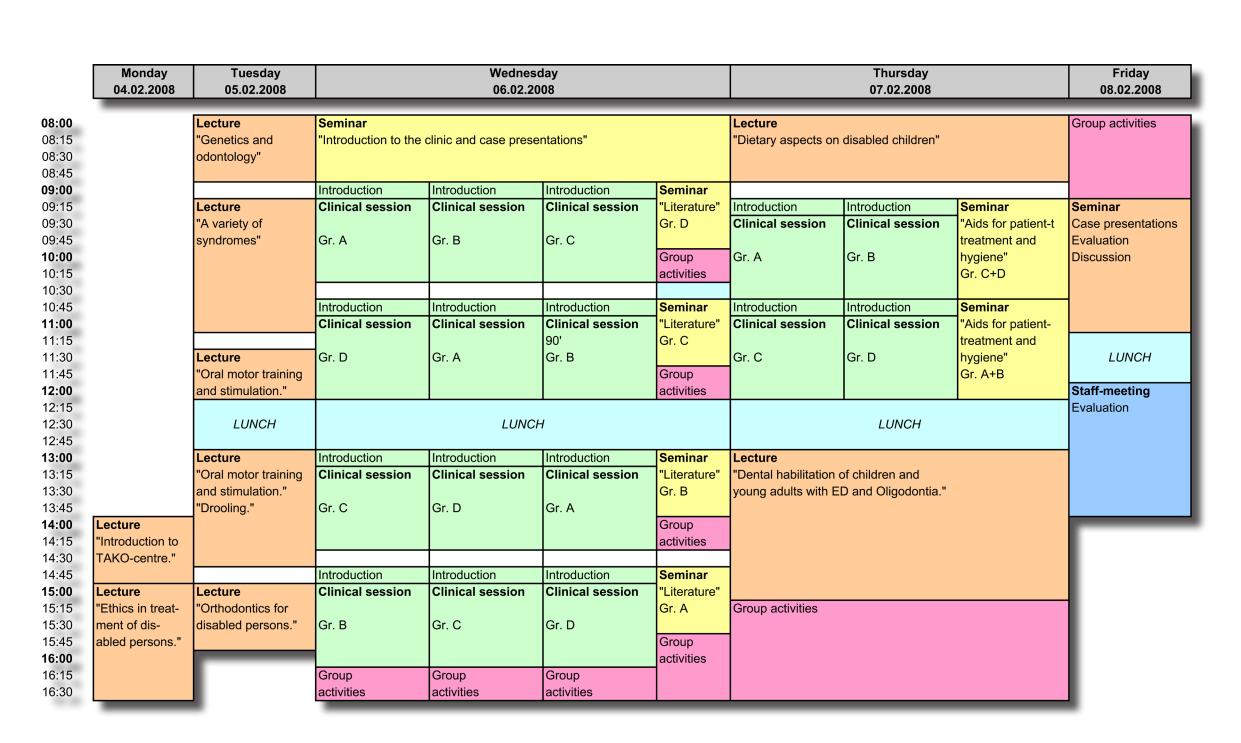
In the group sessions, such as seminars and clinical sessions, the students from Norway, Sweden and Finland were mixed to promote internordic cooperation. All communication in the lectures, seminars and presentations were done in English.



LECTURES

- Genetics in rare diagnoses
- Medical ethics in caring for persons with disabilities
- Oral and craniofacial aspects of specific rare diagnoses: – Epidermolysis bullosa
- Organ transplanted children
- DiGeorge syndrome (22.q11 deletion syndrome)
- Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy syndrome (APS1)
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Osteogenesis imperfecta
- Williams syndrome Cleidocranial dysplasia
- Treacher Collins syndrome
- Degenerative progressive neuromuscular diseases including:
- Myotonic dystrophy
- Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Arthrogryphosis multiplex congenital
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Oral motor training and stimulation
- Orthodontics for disabled persons
- Dietary aspects
- Interdisciplinary cooperation in treating persons with oligodontia and ectodermal dysplasias











RESULTS

The students were asked to fill in a questionnaire at the end of the course and also to add comments. All dental hygienist students were satisfied or very satisfied with the course and had collected a lot of necessary knowledge about rare medical diagnoses.

One of the students met a person with Ehlers Danlos syndrome as a patient a couple of weeks after the course and the student's confidence and knowledge about the syndrome made the patient comment that this was the first time any dental health worker had known anything about her condition.