

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

A project using video conferences



Lovisenberg Diakonale Hospital

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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 lectures, seminars and clinical sessions live on video conferences.

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,

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 market and how to adjust these to the individual patient.

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

The students were able to examine the patients clinically, ask questions to the following parents/guardians and to the patients, and together with the clinical specialist from the TAKO-centre discuss a short-term and long-term treatment plan primarily concerning dental hygiene and prophylactic measures.

The rest of the students situated in Falun, Åbo/Turku 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 summary 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



	Monday 04.02.2008	Tuesday 05.02.2008	Wednesday 06.02.2008	Thursday 07.02.2008	Friday 08.02.2008
08:00	Lecture "Genetics and odontology"	Seminar "Introduction to the clinic and case presentations"		Lecture "Dietary aspects on disabled children"	Group activities
08:15					
08:30					
08:45					
09:00					
09:15	Lecture "A variety of syndromes"	Clinical session Gr. A	Clinical session Gr. B	Clinical session Gr. C	Seminar "Literature" Gr. D
09:30					
09:45					
10:00					
10:15					
10:30					
10:45					
11:00					
11:15					
11:30	Lecture "Oral motor training and stimulation."	Clinical session Gr. D	Clinical session Gr. A	Clinical session 90' Gr. B	Seminar "Literature" Gr. C
11:45					
12:00					
12:15					
12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:45					
13:00	Lecture "Oral motor training and stimulation."	Clinical session Gr. C	Clinical session Gr. D	Clinical session Gr. A	Seminar "Literature" Gr. B
13:15					
13:30					
13:45					
14:00	Lecture "Introduction to TAKO-centre."				
14:15					
14:30					
14:45					
15:00	Lecture "Ethics in treatment of disabled persons."	Lecture "Orthodontics for disabled persons."	Clinical session Gr. B	Clinical session Gr. C	Clinical session Gr. D
15:15					
15:30					
15:45					
16:00					
16:15					
16:30					

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.



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