



# FiCTION Winter Newsletter

FiCTION (Filling Children's Teeth: Indicated Or Not)



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR FiCTIONeer(s)

### The final recruitment PUSH!

First of all, the FiCTION research team would like to wish everyone involved in the study a very happy new year. The trial is entering the final stages of recruitment and we are all geared up for the last six months of bringing children and their parents into the FiCTION family.

Recruitment is due to finish at the end of June 2014 and we now have in excess of sixty dental practices taking part. You can see from the map that the original practices in Dundee, Newcastle, Yorkshire (Leeds and Sheffield), Cardiff and London have been joined by others from *Aberdeen, Glasgow, Teesside and Derbyshire* and we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new practices and their patients.

With our most northern practice in Aberdeen and our farthest south practice located in Port Talbot, Wales the FiCTION practices now span 559 miles! This, of course, means that our Trial Manager, Mark Palmer, is being kept very busy with the 121 site monitoring visits he has completed so far in order to ensure that all of the processes and paperwork are in order for the trial.

The visits are a great opportunity for Mark to come and discuss any issues you might have and answer any questions you can think of.

We asked Mark about these visits and this is what he had to say:

'The data that has been reviewed so far has been of the very highest quality. Well done everyone, you are all doing an excellent job.'

Map of FiCTION sites



## Interview with Dr Baruch Davidoff of B Davidoff Surgery by FiCTION Clinical Lead's Secretary - Shahana Lais

### What's your practice like?

I have a mixed practice which is about 50% private. There are 7 associates. The area in which our practice is located has a population of mainly orthodox Jewish but it is multi-cultural also servicing English, Muslim, Turkish and Asian patients.

### How do you think being involved in the Trial can help a practice?

Our practice has benefited directly and indirectly from the trial.

**Directly:** We are Preventive oriented, and we have stopped and started a few programs over the years. The trial has influenced us to start a new prevention program in general and I believe that this will now be a long term one. Secondly, we are employing techniques which we have never used before i.e. Hall technique and stainless steel crowns, plus ICDAS charting is something new to us.

**Indirectly:** We have started making contacts with teaching staff in Hospital Departments as a result of our involvement, and I believe this will increase more long term. Professor Wong stays in close touch with our London group and has been helpful in many ways. We will, of course, be following with keen interest the results of the project which I believe will enhance further our knowledge and quality of treatment of children.

### How important have your support staff been throughout the Trial?

FiCTION staff have always been prompt in answering our questions. As far as our own staff is concerned, ICDAS charting is something out of the norm and therefore it has been important to have a nurse who is familiar with it. The nurse and admin also has to be familiar with the paperwork and ensuring patients fill in their side of the forms.

### How have you managed to engage parents to take part in this longitudinal study?

None of the arms are harmful and parents retain full right to ask for a deviation if they are not happy with an aspect of their particular arm at any stage.

### What do you feel are the wider social benefits of FiCTION?

I believe that prevention is the way forward in dentistry long term and that the Fiction trial results will attract world wide interest, and therefore have a major influence on the future approach to the treatment of children and probably adults also

### Have you had any strange/ funny experiences whilst working on the Trial?

The main experience that stands out so far with the trial is a child's adaptation to the Hall technique crowns. This particular child had three crowns on different occasions and each one "gagged open" the bite about two to three millimetres. I was quite amazed that when the child returned, bite was back to normal and child had experienced no abnormal reaction. She did not even comment about it.



L-R:- Dr Ashesh Patel, Schmuel Davidoff and Kamaljit Dhinjan

## Drawing Competition 2014



At the beginning of 2013 we asked that any FiCTION patients who enjoy colouring in and would like a chance to see their artwork on the FiCTION website to hand in their artwork to their dental practice. As this was such a success we will be running another competition during 2014.

We will be asking you to encourage the children to draw us some FiCTION pictures so please contact your local Clinical Lead Secretary for competition sheets and pencils if you need them. The colouring sheets will still be available for download from the FiCTION website.

## FiCTION Evening meetings and CPD

Have you attended one of our splendid evening events yet? If you have,

you will appreciate why we hold them but for those who are yet to attend, the purpose is just another way for us to communicate with the dental practices on the trial and to keep them 'in the know'. They are very informal gatherings but at least 1hr will comprise of CPD training. It's the ideal opportunity to express any concerns or problems you are having and to share anything positive you have to contribute too. It also gives you an opportunity to meet with other GDPs who are at the beginning of their FiCTION journey and engage with members of the FiCTION team generally. What's more, refreshments are always served! Here's a few quotes received from some FiCTION dental practices following the Leeds evening meeting held in October 2013:-

“Really helpful tips for recruiting patients”.....“Relaxed and open atmosphere”.....

“Informative and relevant”.....“Interactive”.....

“Good to have an evening speaking to other dentists on their views and experiences”

“Excellent form of peer discussions and update on paediatric issues, not just related to FiCTION also”

## Merchandise

### 'MUGtober'

To say THANK YOU, during October (or 'MUGtober' as aptly named), our practices were offered 1 FiCTION mug per recruit (up to a max of 4) or, if more than 4 recruits, a 'tea break in a box'. Eight practices received 1 mug; 10 practices received 2 mugs; 6 practices received 3; 1 practice received a tea-break-in-a-box. Also, those practices who have reached the magic 30 recruits received a well-earned tea-break-in-a-box. A similar event took place in November (MUGvember). This will be re-launched during 2014.



## Dissemination

FiCTION practices have been receiving copies of a new poster to display in their waiting rooms.

The 'fluffy bugs' which have been a big hit with the children (and the trial team as well as the practice staff) wanted to say thanks on our behalf to all of the children and their parents for taking part.



### More new FiCTION merchandise

The tooth-brushing egg timer! Particularly useful for those children who have been randomised onto the Prevention Alone FiCTION arm.

### Reward sticker

Reward sticker to hand to the FiCTION children. The sticker bears a picture of the entry that won 1st place in Wales and overall competition winner in this year's colouring competition. More competitions to come in 2014!



## Recent and Upcoming Events

The FiCTION Data Monitoring and Ethics Committee met on the 9th of December 2013 and the FiCTION steering group met a week later on the 16th of December 2013.

### Evening Meetings

London – 15 January 2014

Yorkshire – 28 January 2014 in Leeds

Newcastle – 29 January 2014

Scotland - TBA

Wales - New Year 2014



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## What is FICTION?

The FICTION study (Filling Children's Teeth: Indicated or Not) is a multi-centre Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) funded by the NIHR HTA, which aims to provide evidence on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of three treatment approaches to managing decay in the primary dentition.

The FICTION trial is addressing the Health Technology Assessment Programme's commissioning brief and the research question "What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of filling caries in primary teeth, compared to no treatment?" It will also compare an intermediate treatment strategy based on the biological (sealing-in) management of caries with no treatment and with fillings.

The study is a primary care-based multi-centre, three-arm, parallel group, patient-randomised controlled trial. Practitioners will recruit 1461 children, (3-7 years) with at least one primary molar tooth with decay into dentine. They will be randomised and treated according to one of 3 treatment approaches:

- conventional caries management with best practice prevention
- biological management of caries with best practice prevention
- best practice prevention alone
- followed up for at least three years

The joint Chief Investigators are based at the Universities of Dundee, Leeds and Newcastle – Professor Jan Clarkson (Dundee), Dr Nicola Innes (Dundee), Professor Gail Douglas (Leeds) and Professor Anne Maguire (Newcastle). The full trial team includes collaborators from the Universities of Cardiff, Dundee, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle and Sheffield. This multi-disciplinary research team has been established to work alongside a UK-wide team of specialist paediatric and Primary Care dentists and members of their teams. This is to ensure that whilst the trial design and conduct is of the highest standard, it remains practical and pragmatic.