Abstract

Objective: To evaluate the spectrum of oral health conditions that presented at the Child Dental Health Clinic. Methods: A 30-month retrospective study of oral health conditions of 462 children, 222 (48.3%) males and 238 (51.7%) females, aged 16 years and below seen at the Dental Centre, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Results: The average age of the patients was 8.5 + 3.8 (SD) years. Nineteen (4.1%) children attended for routine dental check-up and there were no routine visits before the age of one year. Two hundred and fifteen (46.2%) of the children were diagnosed with dental caries, while 91 (19.7%) of the children had chronic gingivitis. Only 42 (9.1%) children attended due to traumatic injuries to the dentition. Forty six (10%) were referred for orthodontic management. There was a female predilection for dental caries (58.1%) while the males were found to have more periodontal diseases. Conclusion: There is a poor dental awareness as reflected by the proportion of children that attended the clinic for routine visits and the severity of some of the dental conditions suggesting late presentation. An early age dental visit should be encouraged since it provides a foundation upon which a lifetime of preventive education and oral health care can be developed.

Keywords

Oral health, Child, Health education.