

Diabetes and oral health (DiabOH): integrated general medical and dental care

P Lau¹, H Calache^{2,3,4}, R Martin², E Boyce², M Gussy⁴, J Furler^{1,2}, I Darby¹, M Chen¹, A Tran¹

Department of General Practice University of Melbourne¹, North Richmond Community Health², Oral Health Economics Research Unit Deakin University³ and Department of Dentistry and Oral Health La Trobe University⁴

Introduction

- There is a relationship between periodontal (gum) disease and diabetes
 - Diabetes increases the risk for periodontal disease⁽¹⁾
 - Patients with periodontal disease have 3-4 fold higher prevalence of diabetes⁽²⁾
- Despite this, medical and dental professionals continue to work in silos

Aims

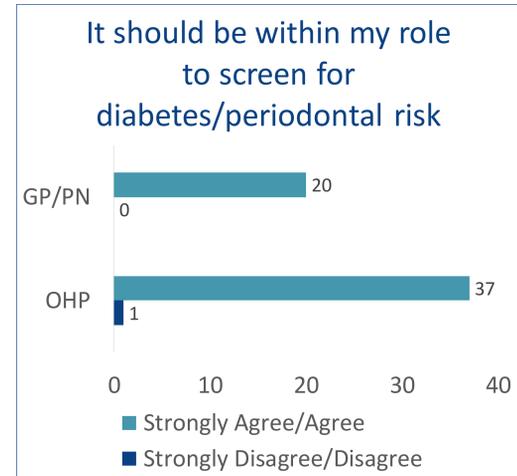
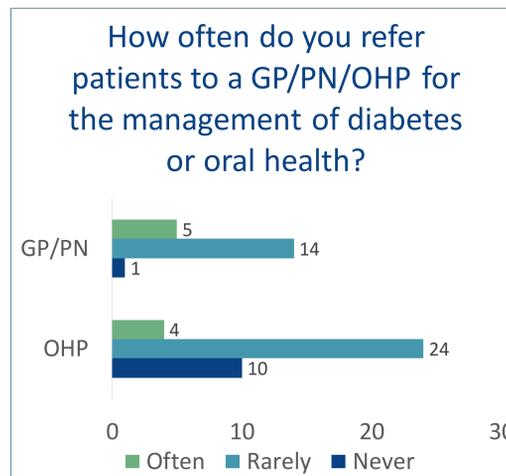
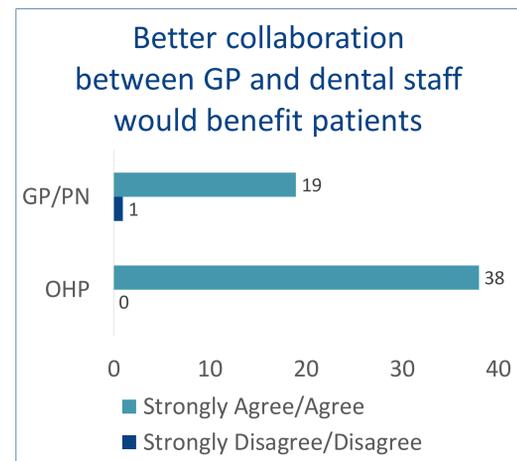
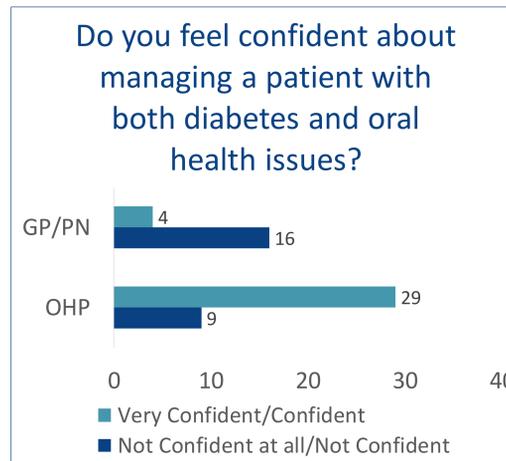
To develop an integrated care model for diabetes and oral health involving GPs, primary healthcare nurses (PNs) and oral health professionals (OHPs) in community health settings.

Methods

- Mixed methods exploratory study including online surveys, interviews and focus groups with GPs, PNs and OHPs
- Online surveys asked about managing diabetes and periodontal disease, and integrated care between medical and dental professionals
- Qualitative semi-structured interviews were conducted with selected survey participants to further explore their responses
- GPs, PNs and OHPs from North Richmond Community Health (which has co-location of medical and dental services) are currently participating in a pilot of an integrated model of care, developed based on a literature review, survey and interview findings and advice from an advisory committee
- Following the pilot, focus groups will be conducted to elicit feedback on the feasibility and acceptability of the model

Results

Survey data: 58 total (20 general medical & nursing; 38 general dental)



Interview data: 22 total (11 general medical & nursing; 11 general dental). Thematic analysis of the interviews are currently underway. These are some salient quotes:

GP 2 - "Things like professional development... would certainly increase my knowledge. It would also begin to build those working relationships"

OHP 1 - "Dental files are dental files and medical files are medical files... that flow of information is not present"

PN 1 - "So some more education would be fantastic in this area because then I think clinicians would feel more competent and confident in discussing it further"

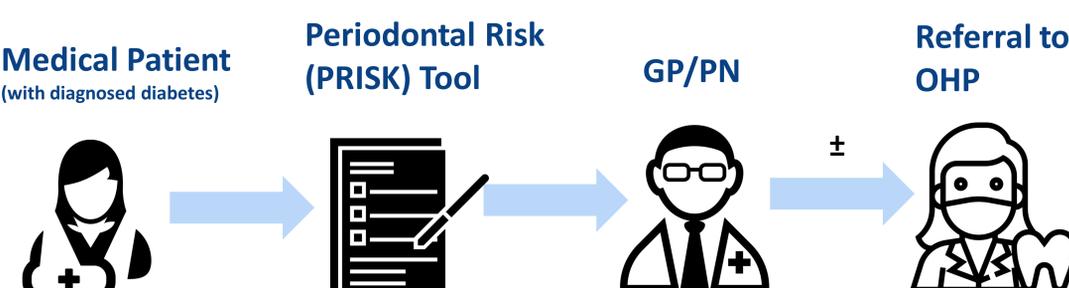
Conclusion

- Health professionals agree that there needs to be more collaboration between medical and dental services to improve diabetes management

Diabetes risk assessment in dental clinic



Periodontal risk assessment in medical clinic



References:

- Lalla E, Papananou PN. Diabetes mellitus and periodontitis: a tale of two common interrelated diseases. Nature Reviews Endocrinology. 2011;7(12):738-48.
- Preshaw PM, Alba AL, Herrera D, Jepsen S, Konstantinidis A, Makrilakis K, et al. Periodontitis and diabetes: a two-way relationship. Diabetologia. 2012;55(1):21-31.

Acknowledgment: Diabetes Australia Research Program for funding this project, the 4 community health centres involved and the GPs, PNs and OHPs who have participated in the project.