

Editorial

# Dental injuries in small children

Children in pre-school ages are very prone to dental injuries and the treatment of an injured child is challenging from many aspects. The first dental trauma may also be the first experience of dentistry for the child. The trauma itself is not only a physical trauma for the child but also a psychological trauma for the child and the family. The clinician must be able to comfort the child and parents in the emergency situation. Moreover, it is important not to induce fear and anxiety from the measures being taken in the acute phase and sometimes some sort of sedative premedication is necessary.

Besides the psychological challenges, the principle of treatment in the primary dentition is sometimes different from treatment of permanent teeth. The close proximity of the root of the primary tooth to its permanent successor has to be

taken into consideration. The normal development of the permanent tooth has to be given the highest priority.

In this issue of *Dental Traumatology* we publish the International Association of Dental Traumatology (IADT) guidelines for emergency treatment of primary teeth. An expert group of experienced researchers and clinicians has developed a consensus statement after review of the dental literature and group discussions. It is our hope that the IADT guidelines will help many clinicians all over the world in their challenging task; treating the traumatized young child.

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