

Appropriate Attribution

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The article about infant oral health care, [Nowak AJ, Quiñonez RB: Visionaries or Dreamers? The Story of Infant Oral Health], in the March/April 2011 issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*, serves as an excellent review of the topic.

I don't wish to be critical, however, the old editor in me is always concerned about appropriate acknowledgment to those who have blazed the trail. All too frequently authors seem to miss papers that either were the first to raise a topic, or were important in the overall development of a technique or a topic. It appears that the authors in this case missed a prior "visionary" publication on the subject they addressed that had significant impact, and which certainly should have been included in what was a very thorough review of infant oral health. Here I must disclose that I only remembered the paper in question since I was, at the time of publication, the Editor-in-Chief of the journal in which the paper appeared. I always tried to remind authors of review articles to cite the pioneering works in the field so that historical perspective of the subject would be complete, accurate, and revealing. Once an article is missed in an important review paper, it runs the risk of forever disappearing from the literature, since future researchers will perhaps only refer to the review paper itself and its references, that in this case appear to me to be lacking in completeness.

In 1984, Croll published a paper¹ that at the time I believe was the first to really describe a new paradigm in infant oral

health. In fact if I am not mistaken, I recall this paper led to changes in the recommendations for infant oral health in the important books of Dr. Benjamin Spock on children's health. To this day, Spock's book continues to be an important worldwide educational resource regarding the oral health of infants, toddlers and children, so any paper on oral health that influenced Spock, surely deserves to be included in an overall review of the subject.

Dr. Croll also published an illustrative follow-up paper with *Quintessence International* on the subject which, for the completeness of the scientific record, should also be considered when reviewing the topic of infant oral health.²

In writing a review article, authors always struggle with what prior work to cite and how to measure the importance of past publications. However, it is very important, in the quest for truth, completeness and accuracy of the historical record, and not-the-least for fairness to those who led the way, that authors ensure that influential writings that altered the course of progress in the profession are recognized and included. It was unfortunate that the two papers I have noted here were inadvertently missed by the authors.

References

1. Croll TP: A child's first dental visit: A protocol. *Quintessence International* 1984;6(6):625-37.
2. Croll TP: The need for early infant and toddler dental care: A pictorial argument. *Quintessence International* 1988;19(10):719-30.

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Erratum

In the article of Takaoka LA, Goulart AN, Kopelman BI, Weiler RM. Enamel Defects in the Complete Primary Dentition of Children Born at Term and Preterm, which appeared on page 171 of the March/April 2011 issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*: The nomenclature used in Table 4 erroneously identified Tooth E as Tooth A. Please see correction in red in Table 4 printed here.

* $P < .02$.

† $P > .01$.

†† $P < .05$.

Table 4. DISTRIBUTION (%) OF LOCATION OF ENAMEL DEFECTS IN THE TEETH OF PRETERM CHILDREN (PTC) AND TERM CHILDREN (TC)

Teeth	Incisal half		Gingival and incisal halves		Occlusal		Cuspal	
	PTC	TC	PTC	TC	PTC	TC	PTC	TC
E	58*	0	11	2	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	13†	2	0	0	0	0
O	4	0	9	4	0	0	0	0
P	9	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
D	38†	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
G	76*	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
N	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	4	0	11	6	0	0	0	0
H	5	0	18*	6	0	0	0	0
M	4	0	13†	6	0	0	0	0
R	2	0	7	6	0	0	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	7	4	9	0
I	0	0	0	0	9††	2	13*	4
L	0	0	0	0	4	0	11†	4
S	0	0	0	0	7	0	4	4
A	0	0	0	0	7	11	16*	6
J	0	0	0	0	7	9	9	6
K	0	0	0	0	18*	2	7	6
T	0	0	0	0	9††	11†	11†	9

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