Molar incisor hypomineralisation study underway

Dr Kelly Oliver gives the hypomineralisation presentation to Dr Brearley Messer, Dr Kan, Jenna Kettlewell, eviDent's Coordinator Meaghan Quinn, Dr Ng, Jessica Willmott, Maria Talania and Margaret Kan

The final piece in the group of participating dental practices involved in an eviDent research project fell into place with a hands-on training session on data collection at a Kew paediatric practice.

Associate Investigators Drs Karen Kan and Fiona Ng and their staff were guided through the steps in gaining permission for child patients to be involved in the study and then role playing in collecting the data.

The Kew Paediatric Group was the last practice to undertake the training for the molar incisor hypomineralisation (MIH) study – the dental practice based research network's third project.

The training, conducted by eviDent's Chief Investigator, Emeritus Professor Louise Brearley Messer and eviDent's Associate Investigator, Dr Kelly Oliver, was necessary to ensure that the data collection is calibrated. The training session also reviewed the project aims and objectives and the nature of MIH, and the ethics of conducting research in a private practice in association with the University of Melbourne.

Each practice has been issued with a manual for the study and packets of envelopes for data to been sent to the Melbourne Dental School each week. The study will run for at least two years.

The aims of the project are to investigate the distribution and severity of MIH/ Molar Hypomineralisation (MH), to implement the use of a new MH severity index developed by Dr Narisha Chawla and Emeritus Professor Brearley Messer to help predict the clinical course of affected molars and to assist clinicians in determining the most appropriate treatment.

The first part of the training involved asking the parents of the patient for written consent allowing their child to be involved in the study. The next was the explanation of the collection of data and then role playing. The participants quickly adapted to the process, identifying the affected tooth, its colour, the location of the defect and whether it had been treated either at the practice or elsewhere.

The staff – Maria Talania, Jessica Willmott, Jenna Kettlewell, and Dr Kan's mother, Margaret - were quickly working as teams with the dentists in recording the data.

With the training over, Dr Oliver quipped about her forthcoming overseas holiday knowing that she would be returning to considerable data to process provided by the four participating paediatric practices.