



Editorial:

A new platform for researchers in pediatric Dentistry

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Journal of Updates in Pediatric Dentistry



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Dear colleagues,

It is indeed a very proud and happy moment, as we are launching the Journal of Updates in Pediatric Dentistry. With its open access and being published every quarterly, this brand-new international journal would be a platform for evidence-based information in the field of Pediatric Dentistry.

The primary objective of this exercise is to share and expand the know-how and expertise in this field and bring forward cutting-edge advancements and innovations to the forefront to benefit our fraternity worldwide. Pediatric Dentistry as a profession aims to uphold the right of the child to good oral health. We in this field aspire to use the best techniques, technology and materials to bring the most comfortable dental experience to the needy child.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic ensued, it has been a real challenge to provide the best treatment for our child patients with utmost safety for patients and their families and health professionals. Oral health care is a part of the gamut of health care and well-being which sometimes linked to viral and bacterial diseases, heart diseases, hormonal disorders and even cancer. This pandemic has made us alter various treatment protocols, thus posing a challenge for children's overall oral health maintenance.

Neglect of oral health by the child and the parents, delay in dental check-ups and treatment, increased intake of sweets and processed food during the lockdown has led to faster caries activity progression. Thus, the conversion of carious lesions requiring preventive therapy to lesions requiring secondary and tertiary therapy is a significant setback due to the pandemic lockdown. Although practice guidelines from statutory bodies were adopted in clinics, once the first wave subsided and patients were treated by taking necessary precautions like vigorous sterilizations and wearing PPE suits, there was still some reluctance from the child's parents to the clinic.

As the pandemic continues, when the child visits the clinic, the sight of a doctor in a PPE suit would not seem familiar and comfortable to the child, which affected our behavior management techniques.

On the brighter side, we did come across cases where the parents were highly concerned and aware of the child's oral health who kept in touch with their pediatric dentist for necessary care and precautions to delay the disease progression maintain oral health. Furthermore, there is increasing awareness among the people and society regarding the connection between oral health and general health as it is a part of the overall well-being of individuals.

The pandemic also held back the academic activities in postgraduate programs, under-graduate programs, conferences and conventions, but thanks to the technology, we were able to bounce back in a short time with the sincere efforts of teachers and students by going digital through online classes and Though we are amidst the second wave of the pandemic, we are better prepared and equipped based on our experience of getting through the first wave more scientifically and professionally.

Nevertheless, the real challenge lies ahead now, where the mutant SARS-COV-2 is deadlier and affects all the age groups, including babies and children with an added risk of asymptomatic carriers, unlike the first variant's low frequency in children. So, this is an alarming and challenging situation for us pediatric dentists as now we have to only opt for emergency treatments and that too with utmost safety and care for our child patients, their families and our para-staff and ourselves.

Even though we are facing a glitch in the clinical practice of Pediatric Dentistry for the moment, we still hope to strive forward in the field of research and evidence-based academic activities with the available resources and technology and bring to light the latest advancements and modifications through this journal that will aid in increasing our knowledge base even amidst the pandemic.

The Editor in Chief wishes to thank the associate editors and the editorial board members for their sincere efforts in this new task and look forward to enriching this journal as a leading forum for scientific advancements in Pediatric Dentistry.