Extension of the traumatology curriculum for dental students

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Introduction

All dental students at the Medical University of Graz have to successfully complete the module “Z19 – musculoskeletal system” in the course of their basic education. Therefore, the curriculum includes the basic principles of traumatology, diseases and congenital malformations of the locomotor system. Up to now, the module did not include information about injuries to the maxilla, mandible and the teeth. The aim of our study was to investigate whether the students would appreciate additional facts on these topics.

Methods

During the winter semester 2015, the lectures “basic and specific traumatology” were supplemented with the following issues: fractures of the midface and the mandible, luxation of the temporomandibular joint and fractures and dislocations of the teeth. The symptomatology, diagnostics and conservative/operative therapy of these subitems were illustrated. After the lecture, the 13 participating students completed an evaluation.

Results

Seven commentaries involved the supplemented topic.

- 14% stated that the specific part should be maintained
- 29% wished it had been more particular
- 86% found it interesting/good

Discussion

Students’ evaluation of the extended lecture revealed positive results.

Conclusion

The specific part about traumatology of the midface, mandible, the temporomandibular joint and the teeth will be maintained and eventually expanded with case reports.
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