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**Poster Title: Does oral health knowledge and behaviour improve following brief dental care professional (DCP) delivered educational intervention in schools?**

**BLAKE H., BRADY LR., LEIGHTON PA., YOUNIS F., DEERY C., DAWETT B.**

**Background:** Poor oral health in childhood can result in significant problems later in life. Individual oral health education during clinical encounters has been shown to be largely ineffective and community-delivered approaches to oral health education are warranted.

**Objectives:** To assess change in oral health care knowledge and oral health behaviours in children following group oral health education delivered in the school setting by a dental care professional.

**Methods:** 150 children (10-11 years) received a 60-minute classroom-based interactive educational session. All children completed oral health knowledge questionnaire and self-reported oral health behaviours before, immediately after and 6 weeks following intervention.

**Results:** Children's dental knowledge significantly improved following intervention ( $F(2, 292) = 49.92, p < 0.001, \text{partial } \eta^2 = 0.26$ ), with improvement evident at immediate follow-up ( $t(147) = -8.01, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.31$ ) and maintained 6 weeks later ( $t(148) = -8.91, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.35$ ). Significantly more children used dental floss 6 weeks after the intervention compared with baseline ( $Z = -3.99, p < 0.001$ ). No significant differences were detected in tooth brushing or dietary behaviours.

**Conclusions:** Community preventative oral health education can generate short-term improvements in children's knowledge of oral health and aspects of oral hygiene behaviour.