



European Society of Endodontology

Young Investigator Research Grant

Award 5000 Euros

Charlotte Currie, Newcastle University, UK



The recent Adult Dental Health Survey reported that nine percent of dentate adults in the UK experience current dental pain and 8% report a history of pain over the past year, suggesting a significant burden of acute dental pain on the general population. Furthermore acute dental pain is known to exert significant impacts on individuals' everyday lives. Despite this, almost one third of patients will only seek dental care for acute dental pain, frequently waiting long periods of time before attending. This can have an adverse effect on both the patient and the service provider, with these cohort of patients opting to use emergency "drop in" services, often for repeated visits, rather than engaging with regular dental care. The reasons behind delayed presentation and or repeated presentations to emergency care are poorly understood and under-researched. In order to facilitate the use of continuing dental care and disease prevention we must build an understanding of why individuals choose to use emergency dental care services.

This study aims to explore patients' experiences and perspectives for seeking repeated emergency care for acute dental pain. Qualitative research methods will be used, with semi-structured interviews carried out on a group of patients attending emergency dental services, in both primary and secondary care, in the North and South of England. Data collection and analysis will follow the principles of the constant comparative method. Case-by-case and theme-by-theme frameworks will be used to help organise the data collected and identify recurrent themes.

Summary of Career

Charlotte Currie is currently a Clinical Fellow in Oral Surgery at Newcastle University. She began her studies in dentistry in 2006 by starting a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree, during her studies for her Bachelor degree she completed an intercalated degree in 2012 achieving a Masters of Research in Medical Sciences degree at distinction level, and being awarded the National 3M ESPE Award for Intercalated Studies. She completed her BDS with Honours in 2013 and was awarded the BDA Prize for best overall performance in the finals examination. Following graduation she worked as a General Professional Trainee at Newcastle Dental Hospital in various dental specialities and also maintained an alternate week in primary care, and was then appointed as a clinical fellow in 2015. Her previous research has been in the area of dental local anaesthesia, and she is now focussing on research in acute dental pain for her PhD.