

Current knowledge among Japanese experienced general dentist regarding prevention of infective endocarditis

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Abstrak

ABSTRACT

Infective endocarditis (IE), a life-threatening condition predominantly occurring in patients with underlying heart disease, is mainly caused by bacteremia induced by invasive dental treatment. However, the amount of related information shared between cardiologists and dentists appears to be inadequate. In the present study, a survey regarding prevention of IE, composed of 13 major questions, 2 of which also allowed free comments, was sent to approximately 3000 dentists belonging to a prefectural dental association in Japan. Of the 13.6% who returned the forms, more than 80% were general dentists with more than 20 years of experience. Approximately, 55% of the responders reported that they had opportunities to prescribe antibiotics prior to performing treatments with risk of IE, though noted difficulties with designation of which patients with heart disease were at risk. Most of the dentists considered that oral surgery procedures have a high risk for IE, whereas less invasive procedures were considered to be not associated with the disease. Approximately, 35% selected oral amoxicillin, with a dose of 2.0 g (20%) or 500 mg (27%) prescribed for adults, and 50 mg (10%) or 30 mg (12%) per kg of body weight for children. However, the timing of the antibiotics administration varied. The present results reveal current knowledge regarding prevention of IE among general dentists in Japan, and should be valuable for construction of a protocol to establish consensus between dentists and cardiologists.