

# A study investigating patient decision making in the light of 'evidence'

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<b>Registration date</b> 30/09/2005	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 05/07/2016	<b>Condition category</b> Oral Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

**Plain English summary of protocol**  
Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**  
N0116149179

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
A study investigating patient decision making in the light of 'evidence'

**Study objectives**

In this study we intend to determine, on what basis patients make decisions about whether or not to have dental treatment carried out, when faced with information from two sources. The aim of the study will be to identify the relative effects of research evidence and clinical evidence on patient decision making.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Not provided at time of registration

**Study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Oral Health

**Interventions**

The study will take place in the waiting areas of King's College Dental Hospital. All participants will be asked to give their consent to participating in a study examining patient decision making about whether or not to have dental treatment carried out, when faced with information from two sources.

The experimental design will be a two-factor independent group design. The two factors will be the type of information given to patients, informed by the clinician's judgement and the research evidence. Each factor will have two levels: strong evidence for and strong evidence against. The participant will be randomly assigned to one of the four combinations of the two variables. Participants will be given a cover letter explaining the purpose of the study, demographic questions and a case vignette. The participants will be asked to complete the vignettes, making judgements and decisions about treatment and use of information given. Additionally participants' will be asked to rate their oral health using a standardised scale (Atchison and Dolan, 1990)

The scenario will be identical in each vignette. Each vignette will describe a visit to their dentist for treatment of a large hole in one of their back teeth. The nature and purpose of the visit will be identical in each vignette. The first paragraph will describe our study. The second paragraph will describe the context of the visit to the dentist. The next paragraph will describe the strength of research evidence available. The fourth paragraph will describe the dentist's clinical judgement of the possible outcome. The two factors will be manipulated to express two levels of each variable; the evidence strongly supports the intervention, the evidence strongly suggests no effect. The four vignettes will correspond with all four factorial combinations of the two factors. Participants will be asked to read their vignette. After reading their vignette they will be asked to indicate their decision about possible treatment based on the information they will have been given in the vignette and their confidence in the decision.

The vignettes were reviewed as a result of the Research Ethics Committee's comments given on 27th February 2004. In response to these comments, the vignettes were reviewed by three dentists and subsequent modifications were made to encompass the need for clinical reality.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Phase**

Not Applicable

**Primary outcome(s)**

The outcome variable will be the proportion of patients to undergo the treatment described in the vignette.

The outcome measures will be assessed by:

1. Patients' willingness to engage in treatment with the binary of unwilling/willing
2. Patients' confidence

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

No secondary outcome measures

**Completion date**

30/09/2004

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

1. Patients from the waiting areas of King's College Dental Hospital
2. Gave consent

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Not Specified

**Sex**

Not Specified

**Key exclusion criteria**

Does not meet inclusion criteria

**Date of first enrolment**

15/06/2004

**Date of final enrolment**

30/09/2004

# Locations

## Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

## Study participating centre

**Guy's Hospital**

London

United Kingdom

SE5 9RS

# Sponsor information

## Organisation

Department of Health

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Government

## Funder Name

Kings College Hospital NHS Trust R&D Consortium (UK)

## Funder Name

NHS R&D support funding (UK)

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

## IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes