Editorial

Over 2000 years ago Hippocrates’s famous motto ‘Primum non nocere’ (first, do no harm) was made. Since that time health professionals have continued to improve the standards of health care worldwide. However, this is not always the case and we can all make errors. The paper by Ashkenazi and co-workers in this issue reports on common mistakes, negligence and legal offences in paediatric dentistry. The study population comprised both certified and non-certified paediatric dentists as well as residents in paediatric dentistry. The most common errors involved dental radiographs followed by drilling intact teeth and anaesthetising the wrong tooth. The authors conclude that mistakes, negligence and legal offences occur commonly during various operative dental treatments in paediatric dentistry and means to raise awareness and to implement regulations should be addressed to limit these mistakes. Medical litigation is continuously increasing and we all belong to medical protection or defence societies to ensure that we are fully protected should an unfortunate medico-legal incident arise. Continuing professional development and education is now a part of our normal working job plans and we all attend several courses every year in order to keep up to date with the latest developments in dentistry.

Other papers in this issue include one on how to review an article by Martin Curzon and Peter Cleaton-Jones. This will be of interest to many of our younger members and will help to guide them through the complete process of peer reviewing manuscripts. Cox and co-workers present a paper on parental presence on the child’s perception of and behaviour during dental treatment whilst Ramos-Jorge and co-workers discuss the impact of exposure to positive images on dental anxiety among children. There are also three interesting case reports on Fraser syndrome, Ankyloblepharon-Ectodermal Defects-Cleft Lip/Palate (AEC) syndrome and infantile systemic hyalinosis.

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