

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by researchers from The ORIGINS Project (Telethon Kids Institute, Joondalup health Campus), the CSIRO Australian eHealth Research Centre, and the University of Western Australia.

These researchers include: Prof Desiree Silva, paediatric consultant, Joondalup Health Campus and Telethon Kids Institute; Dr Somayyeh Azimi, research fellow, University of Western Australia; Mohamed Estai, research fellow, Australian eHealth Research Centre, CSIRO; W/Prof Marc Tennant, University of Western Australia; Mr Janardhan Vignarajan, senior software engineer, CSIRO Australian e-Health Research Centre; Dr Jilen Patel, specialist paediatric dentist, University of Western Australia.

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Further Information

If you would like to know more about this study during or prior to participation contact: **Dr Somayyeh Azimi**

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Further information about your child's dental health

Further information about oral health of your child can be found on the Australian Dental Association website.

ada.org.au/Your-Dental-Health/Children-0-11/Toddlers.

Further information about local dentists

Information about local dentists can also be found on the Australian Dental Association website.

ada.org.au/Find-a-Dentist.

The Dental Screening Study is a sub-project of The ORIGINS Project.



THE DENTAL SCREENING STUDY
TELE-SCREENING FOR TOOTH DECAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION BROCHURE



Background

Tooth decay remains one of the most common diseases in young children. Forty per cent of preschool children have at least one tooth with decay.

A combination of factors can cause tooth decay, including presence of microorganisms, sugary drinks and snacks, and oral hygiene. Tooth decay can cause pain and infection and if it remains untreated can affect eating, speech, and sleep.

What is this study about?

The Dental Screening Study aims to assess a dental photographic method as an alternative dental screening method. The method will be based on still images taken from a child's mouth by his/her parents, using a smartphone camera and the internet. These images will then be used for an evaluation by dental practitioners.

The findings of this study will help to provide potentially low-cost and sustainable preventive dental care for children, that can still be conducted during a pandemic. This approach has the potential to prioritise children, based on their dental needs, to receive appropriate treatment at the appropriate time.

Who can participate?

The study is looking to recruit children from ORIGINS families that are approaching three-years-old. The examination will take place at the three-year ORIGINS appointment.

Is there any benefit for participation?

This study will advance our knowledge about early detection of childhood decay.

We expect to identify tooth decay and predict its development over time, to provide advice for necessary treatments.

You will receive the results of your child's dental exam and a recommendation will be provided for your child's oral health within two weeks of the appointment. You will also be informed about the results of the study at the end of the project.

What does participation involve?

If you decide to take part in the Dental Screening Study, we will ask you to complete and sign a consent form. When you attend for the study, a member of our team will be available to answer any questions about the study.

▶ Dental inspection

A specialist paediatric dentist will examine the child's mouth using disposable dental kits on the lap of their parents (knee to knee technique), at the same time as their BOD POD* assessment at the three-year ORIGINS appointment at Edith Cowan University.

▶ Dental photography

With the help of a trained dental research assistant, parents/guardians will also be guided to take standard dental photos of their child, using a smartphone camera. This will be done at the three-year appointment, following the dental examination.

This method is non-invasive and is less stressful for small children and may be used as an alternative method of dental examination in future. The collected dental photos will be independently reviewed by two calibrated dental therapists at a separate time.

▶ Feedback

You will be asked to provide your feedback about the dental photography experience at the end of the session.

▶ Timing

The dental examination and photography will take no more than 30 minutes.



Is there any risk or discomfort?

There is a very small risk of discomfort to your child during the dental examination and photography, due to the requirement to open the mouth widely and sit still for several minutes. Dental examinations will be conducted by registered and experienced dental practitioners.

Will anyone else have access to my child's information?

During the processes of dental exam and photography, the information will be uniformly numbered with unidentifiable codes so that you and your child's personal information is kept strictly confidential. No personal or contact details will be retained. Information will not be disclosed to anyone other than the research team. The information and photographs will only be used for research purposes and findings will be published in aggregate format that will not lead to identifying you or your child.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw from the study at any time without the need to provide a reason, and your data will not be included in the results of the study.

Complaints or concerns

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Ramsay Health Care WA | SA Human Research Ethics Committee (RHC WA | SA HREC). If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in a research project, please contact the Consumer Liaison Office at Joondalup Health Campus on (08) 9400 9404 who will direct your complaint to the most appropriate person. Any complaint you make will be investigated by an independent party, treated in confidence, and you will be informed of the outcome.

*BOD-POD is a measure of body composition that takes place at the ORIGINS three-year appointment at Edith Cowan University.