

Background Sport can represent an important aspect of peoples' lives, for professional and recreational athletes. Some sports involve a high risk of orofacial trauma, particularly contact sports. Undoubtedly, mouthguards are considered by many as an effective solution in preventing injury.

Objective This systematic review aimed to measure the effectiveness of mouthguards in preventing oral-facial injuries.

Design Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews (PRISMA)

Setting Available electronic databases

Patients (or Participants) Contact sport athletes

Interventions (or Assessment of Risk Factors) MEDLINE and EMBASE electronic databases searches were supplemented by manual searching, of in-vivo studies examining prevention of orofacial injuries by protective devices that cover the teeth and surrounding soft tissues (mouthguards).

Main Outcome Measurements Included studies were assessed for methodological quality and bias. A meta-analysis was performed on data from selected studies, comparing the number of injuries for mouthguard users and non-users. Results are presented as forest plots and relative risks between different studies compared.

Results 1745 records were identified. Fifteen studies were eligible for inclusion in the qualitative synthesis, seven were included in the meta-analysis. The overall quality of studies was low, primarily due to a high degree of bias. The degree of heterogeneity was high throughout the studies affecting most of the variables such as sport, athletes' age, the definition of injury used and type of mouthguard. The meta-analysis showed that wearing a mouthguard was associated with a greater risk of orofacial injury when compared to non-users (overall RR 0.85%, 95% CI 0.78–0.93). However, the high degree of heterogeneity questions the validity of the summary estimate. (I-squared= 91.2%).

Conclusions There is insufficient evidence to support or refute the use of mouthguards to prevent orofacial injuries. Further research from high quality prospective cohort studies are needed to investigate the protective nature of mouthguards from orofacial injuries, when used in sports. The meta-analysis findings could be explained by athletes being more physical in the knowledge that they are protected.

345 CAN A BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INTERVENTION IMPROVE ATHLETE ORAL HEALTH?

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Background Poor oral health of elite athletes is associated with negative performance impacts. There is a need for oral health promotion and prevention strategies that are effective within the elite sport environment

Objective To develop, implement and evaluate a pragmatic oral health promotion intervention based on contemporary behaviour change theory and informed by input from all stakeholders in elite sport.

Design Interrupted time-series intervention study.

Setting Three separate UK elite athlete-training centres.

Patients (or Participants) 62 athletes from two Olympic and one professional athlete training squads; 55 athletes completed the study.

Interventions (or Assessment of Risk Factors) Two levels: Level 1. Athletes and support team viewed combined one 10-minute presentation focussed on building motivation and three 90-second information films. Level 2. Athletes alone received oral health screening, personalised advice and an oral health toolkit focussed on opportunity and capability. Follow-up of athletes at one and three months.

Main Outcome Measurements Impact on performance (OSTRC questionnaire), oral health knowledge (8-item questionnaire), gingival inflammation, self-reported oral health problems and oral hygiene routines.

Results At baseline, 41 (66.1%) athletes had evidence of caries, 29 (46.8%) evidence of erosion, mean bleeding score was 11.57 (8.11), 44 (71%) were male and 58 (93.5%) white British. Mean OSTRC score reduced from 8.73 (14.54) to 2.73 (11.31) $p < 0.001$. Mean knowledge score improved from 5.69 (1.59) to 6.93 (1.32) $p < 0.001$. Gingival bleeding score was unchanged. Self-reported oral health problems reduced. Athlete use of prescription fluoride toothpaste (2800 ppm) increased from 8 (12.9%) to 45 (80.4%, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions This behaviour change theory-based intervention was implemented within different elite sport environments. It was associated with a reduction in self-reported performance impacts, an increase in athlete oral health knowledge and enhanced oral health behaviour.

346 EYE INJURIES IN SPORTS: AN UPDATE

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Background About 3% of all eye injuries happen during sports activities. About 25% of these eye injuries are so severe that they need ophthalmic treatment.

Objective Epidemiology of eye injuries in sports, risk of eye injuries in different sports.

Participants 2.392 eye injuries were analysed based on 221.273 sports injuries (club sports) that have been recorded by the sports injury database of the Ruhr-University Bochum and ARAG Sports Insurance between 1987 and 2017. In order to calculate the sports discipline related risk of eye injuries the frequency of eye injuries in one sports discipline has been qualified with regard to the frequency of all sports injuries that have been recorded in this sports discipline.

Results The average age of the 2.392 eye injured – this equals 1.08% of all sports injuries – was 31.9 (age range: 1 - 95 years). 78% of the injured persons were male, whereas 22% were female. About 19.7% had to stay in hospital, 13.9% needed surgery and 56.9% were incapable to work. On average, the injured had to pause their sport for 24.8 days. Blunt traumata, e.g. contusions, are dominant with over 50%. These are often injuries caused by balls (e.g. in tennis or squash), rackets (e.g. in squash or ice hockey) or hand and elbow hits during tackles/tacklings (e.g. in handball or soccer). Assuming a mean risk of 1 for all sports, especially sports disciplines like squash (x8.4), badminton (x5.3), tennis (x4.8), but also water polo (x8.9) with swimming and grasping movements at eye level contain a significantly higher risk of eye injuries.

Conclusions Due to the special risk of eye injuries in squash the use of protective (sports) goggles is recommended from an