

Defending Our Children, Against the Sleep Disordered Breathing Pandemic

Dental Therapists and Hygienists are the first Primary Care clinicians most likely to be introduced to any practice's paediatric population. As such they have the opportunity to take on the role of their ward's guardians against the commonly overlooked and every increasing Sleep Disordered Breathing (SDB) issues.

Literature based knowledge, screening evaluation tools and referrals to SDB clinicians are a basic requirement for today's Primary Care clinicians and can easily be incorporated within everyday dental practice.

Short extensions to normal medical history and orthodontic examination protocols can be used for effective screening and selection for appropriate and *qualified* referrals. Importantly all Primary Care clinicians can provide within scope of practice management for supporting specialists treatment and ongoing monitoring during regular hygiene recalls provide for a well-rounded 21st Century model of healthcare.