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Table 2: Recommendations for improving Shared Decision-Making (SDM) in hypodontia care

Changes within the current structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patients and families should be explicitly informed of the decision to be made. Where multiple options are available and there is no clinically superior option, patients need to be aware treatment choice is a preference-based decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The option of no treatment should be discussed as an active choice requiring adaptation and self-care from the patient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Shared decision-making should be explained, highlighting the role and expertise of the patient and other important people in the decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patient and families' preferred level of participation should be established.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patient and family understanding of hypodontia and its treatment options needs to be established to allow meaningful information exchange. Understanding and further information may be required over the course of treatment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Motivation and expectations should be discussed in terms of both physical changes and improvement to quality of life. Expectations may require revisiting over the course of treatment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Options that exist but are not available, for example due to patient or service factors, should be discussed with an explanation of their unavailability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patients and families should be given time to consider the treatment options and supported in deliberation. This may require additional appointments to clarify information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Decisions should be reassessed throughout the treatment period to allow changes in preferences and choices to be identified and managed.
Changes requiring development and testing of resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patients and families should have access to comprehensive, accessible and unbiased information about hypodontia and its treatment prior to consultation to enable preparation and optimise information exchange.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Clinicians have an important role in helping patients and families understand treatment choices using the best available evidence base and their clinical experience. Further work is required to establish how patients understand complex information including explanation of uncertainty.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Training and support is required for dental professionals to raise awareness and address paucities in understanding and implementing SDM practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tools to support SDM are required including tools to explain SDM, promote engagement, identify values and preferences and valid methods to evaluate the SDM process.