



University Health Network (UHN): An innovative e-infrastructure tool facilitating clinical research

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Introduction

Vast amounts of patient data are available for research in databases in Dental Schools. Still, many clinical procedures are performed with no scientific basis. UHN is an innovative tool launched by the University of Oslo and other major universities which allows anonymized patient data to be shared across universities. Furthermore, the system provides secure storage of data and oversight functions and the possibility to create questionnaires to be used in clinical studies within (InReach) or outside (OutReach) the institution.



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Aim

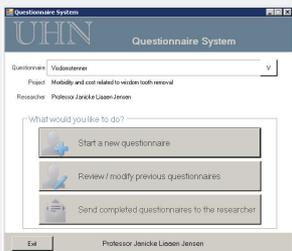
To demonstrate that the use of InReach in a clinical setting can involve the faculty and staff in research in a fast, secure, and efficient manner. At the same time, the system allows the dental students to be presented for collection of clinical research data and be a part of a research environment.

Materials and methods

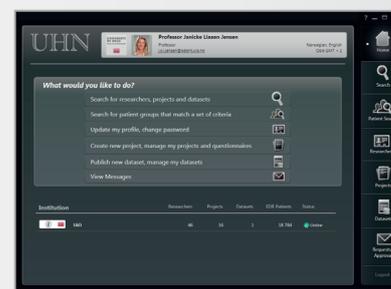
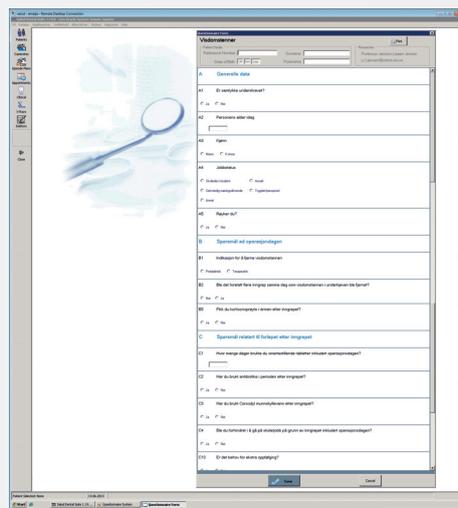
All mandibular wisdom teeth surgeries performed from September 1st, 2012, until August 31st, 2013, are recorded using InReach. The study was approved by the Norwegian Social Science Data Service. At recall one week after surgery, the patients were asked about the use of analgesics and morbidity related to the operation. The patients' age, smoking habits, and complications were also noted. Collected data were sent by InReach from the chair side computer to the principal investigator for consolidation and transport of data to Excel or SPSS.



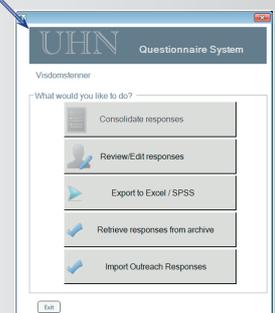
Foto: Jan Umehang



The chair side registration forms used in the clinical setting.



The InReach tools available for the principal investigator (main researcher).



Results and conclusion

In addition to findings related to analgesics and morbidity emerging from the study, the use of this innovative tool has had a positive effect on the social and research environment in the clinic, allowing faculty and students to work in common in an effort

to collect data, specifically exposing the students to research. InReach allows for easy collection of treatment related data and shows promise for future evidence-based procedures and research e-infrastructure.