

Short Communication

Volume 4 Issue 3 - May 2018
DOI: 10.19080/OAJGGM.2018.04.555637

OAJ Gerontol & Geriatric Med

Copyright © All rights are reserved by Leon Bilder

Oral Health Promotion among Institutionalized Patient



Leon Bilder*

Department of Periodontology, School of Graduate Dentistry, Israel

Submission: May 19, 2018; **Published:** May 25, 2018

*Corresponding author: : Leon Bilder, School of Graduate Dentistry, Rambam Health Care Campus, PO Box 9602, 31096, Haifa, Israel, Fax: 972-4-8543057; Email: leon.bilder1@gmail.com

Keywords: Oral health; Long-Term Care institutionalized patients; Caregivers

Short Communication

Minority elderly (3-5%) require long-term care (LTC) [1-3]. LTC patients have chronic diseases, which require medication, cause physical limitations and social disability. All these factors increase the risk of oral diseases and oral manifestations of general diseases [3-5]. Numerous studies documented a very poor oral health among adults residing in LTC facilities [6]. Quite often, the medical staff lacks knowledge and experience in this field. Therefore, an adequate education in oral health among caregivers is critical [7]. LTC institutionalized patients have a high prevalence of caries and high level of oral treatment needs [8]. Unfortunately, there is a significant gap between the oral care need and the limited dental services [9].

Oral hygiene has been found as poor among LTC institutionalized patients [3,8,10]. Few studies have been carried out to compare oral hygiene of independent elderly who take care of their teeth by themselves and those who depend upon oral care assistance and have their teeth cleaned by others. It was found that the oral hygiene quality was better in the self-dependent patients [11]. The possible explanations are that the nursing staff is not qualified to assist the institutionalized elderly with oral care [3]. Several studies show that the quality of oral care education is heterogeneous among caregivers [12-14]. Another explanation of the lack of staff education is a frequent turnover of employees. As shown in the study of Bilder et al. [8], there was a great change (17%) in the number of general caregivers during the period of research. Part of the caregivers was absent due to season disease and others changed the workplace.

Another possible explanation is the neglect of daily oral hygiene of LTC patients. These daily procedures are dependent upon suitable daily oral hygiene procedures and may be highly influenced by the approach taken by the staff [15]. One of the operative option for improving oral health of LTC patients, to change a cleaning procedure. According to the oral health

hygiene protocol for LTC patients, the caregivers have to clean the oral cavity of the patients with gauze located on top of a wooden pedal after immersion in the Chlorhexidine 0.12% mouthwash.

I consider that this routine procedure is not adequate for removing dental biofilm from the teeth, dentures and soft tissues. Therefore, should advise to care givers to use toothbrush immersion in the Chlorhexidine 0.12% mouthwash for removing the biofilm. The staff should adopt this cleaning (brushing) technique. Due to the change in the technique of cleaning, the dental plaque removal will improve.

Further research is needed to improve the adapted cleaning technique for LTC patients.

References

1. Niessen LC (2000) Geriatric dentistry in the next millennium: opportunities for leadership in oral health. *Gerodontology* 17(1): 3-7.
2. Kozyrskyi A, De Coster C, St John P (2000) Long-Stay Patients in Winnipeg Acute Care Hospitals. Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation Department of Community Health Sciences Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba.
3. Peltola P, Vehkalahti MM, Wuolijoki-Saaristo K (2004) Oral health and treatment needs of the long-term hospitalised elderly. *Gerodontolgy* 21(2): 93-99.
4. Abdollahi M, Rahimi R, Radfar M (2008) Current opinion on drug-induced oral reactions: a comprehensive review. *J Contemp Dent Pract* 9(3): 1-15.
5. Bharti V, Bansal C (2013) Drug-induced gingival overgrowth: The nemesis of gingiva unravelled. *J Indian Soc Periodontol* 17(2): 182-187.
6. Wyatt CC, So FH, Williams PM, Mithani A, Zed CM, et al. (2006) The development, implementation, utilization and outcomes of a comprehensive dental program for older adults residing in long-term care facilities. *J Can Dent Assoc* 72(5):419.
7. Preston AJ, Punekar S, Gosney MA (2000) Oral care of elderly patients: nurses' knowledge and views. *Postgrad Med J* 76(892): 89-91.

8. Bilder L, Yavnai N, Zini A (2014) Oral health status among long-term hospitalized adults: a cross sectional study. Peer J 10(2): e423.
9. Chalmers J, Pearson A (2005) Oral hygiene care for residents with dementia: a literature review. J Adv Nurs 52(4): 410-419.
10. Coleman P, Watson NM (2006) Oral care provided by certified nursing assistants in nursing homes. J Am Geriatr Soc 54(1): 138-143.
11. Montal S, Tramini P, Triay JA, Valcarcel J (2006) Oral hygiene and the need for treatment of the dependent institutionalised elderly. Gerodontology 23(2): 67-72.
12. Mac Entee MI (2000) Oral care for successful aging in long-term care. J Public Health Dent 60(4): 326-329.
13. Preston AJ, Kearns A, Barber MW (2006) The knowledge of health care professionals regarding elderly persons' oral care. Br Dent J 201(5): 293-295.
14. Sweeney MP, Williams C, Kennedy C (2007) Oral health care and status of elderly care home residents in Glasgow. Community Dent Health 24(1): 37-42.
15. Wardh I, Hallberg LR, Berggren U (2000) Oral health care-a low priority in nursing. In-depth interviews with nursing staff. Scand J Caring Sci 14(2): 137-142.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License
DOI: [10.19080/OAJGGM.2018.04.555637](https://doi.org/10.19080/OAJGGM.2018.04.555637)

Your next submission with Juniper Publishers will reach you the below assets

- Quality Editorial service
- Swift Peer Review
- Reprints availability
- E-prints Service
- Manuscript Podcast for convenient understanding
- Global attainment for your research
- Manuscript accessibility in different formats
(Pdf, E-pub, Full Text, Audio)
- Unceasing customer service

Track the below URL for one-step submission

<https://juniperpublishers.com/online-submission.php>