



Interdisciplinary Oral Care: Collaborative Approaches for Comprehensive Dental Health and Overall Wellness

Nadia Anjuman*

Department of Centre for Research in Oral Cancer, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

DESCRIPTION

Interdisciplinary oral care refers to a collaborative approach to oral healthcare that involves multiple healthcare disciplines working together to address the complex oral health needs of patients. It recognizes that oral health is intimately interconnected with overall health and well-being and emphasizes the importance of integrating dental care with medical care to achieve optimal patient outcomes. Interdisciplinary oral care involves close coordination and communication between dental professionals, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and other healthcare providers to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care.

One of the key principles of interdisciplinary oral care is the recognition of the bidirectional relationship between oral health and systemic health. Research has demonstrated strong associations between oral diseases such as periodontal disease and systemic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. By addressing oral health issues in conjunction with systemic health concerns, interdisciplinary teams can improve overall health outcomes and enhance patient well-being. Interdisciplinary oral care also emphasizes the importance of comprehensive assessment and treatment planning. This involves conducting thorough evaluations of patients' oral health status, medical history, medications, and social determinants of health to identify potential risk factors and develop personalized treatment plans. By considering the patient's overall health and individual needs, interdisciplinary teams can tailor interventions to optimize oral health outcomes while minimizing potential adverse effects on systemic health. Furthermore, interdisciplinary oral care promotes a holistic approach to patient care that extends beyond the treatment of oral diseases to address broader psychosocial and functional aspects of health. This may

involve providing education and counselling on oral hygiene practices, nutrition, tobacco cessation, and other lifestyle factors that impact oral and systemic health. Additionally, interdisciplinary teams may collaborate with other healthcare providers, community organizations, and social support services to address social determinants of health such as socioeconomic status, access to care, and cultural factors that influence oral health outcomes. Interdisciplinary oral care also facilitates continuity of care and seamless transitions between different healthcare settings. One of the key principles of interdisciplinary oral care is the recognition of the bidirectional relationship between oral health and systemic health. Research has demonstrated strong associations between oral diseases such as periodontal disease and systemic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. By addressing oral health issues in conjunction with systemic health concerns, interdisciplinary teams can improve overall health outcomes and enhance patient well-being. This may involve sharing information, coordinating referrals, and ensuring that patients receive appropriate follow-up care to maintain oral health and monitor for any potential complications. By fostering collaboration and communication among healthcare providers, interdisciplinary teams can streamline the delivery of care and improve patient satisfaction and outcomes. Overall, interdisciplinary oral care represents a patient-centred approach to oral healthcare that recognizes the interconnectedness of oral health with systemic health and overall well-being.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author's declared that they have no conflict of interest.

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Corresponding author Nadia Anjuman, Department of Centre for Research in Oral Cancer, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, E-mail: nadia_anjuman@gmail.com

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