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Chairside Screening In The Dental Setting

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Degree Type
Capstone Project

Degree Name
Bachelor of Science

Subject Categories
Dental Hygiene

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Background Research

- Annually as many as 27 million people visit a dentist but not a physician
- 7.8% of the US population have undiagnosed hypertension, 2.7% have undiagnosed diabetes, & 8.2% have undiagnosed high cholesterol
- Periodontal disease is often considered a complication of diabetes and makes it difficult for patients to control their blood sugar, as well as inflammation and disease in their mouth
- Periodontal disease increases risk for cardiovascular disease
- Inflammatory mediators believed to be responsible

PICO Question

For patients with systemic disease such as diabetes, how does traditional dental hygiene treatment as compared to traditional dental hygiene treatment plus adjunct services (ie: hypertension screening, blood glucose testing, patient education, etc) effect patient oral and overall health outcomes?

Objectives & Goals

- Distribute survey to current RDHs to investigate current policies and practices regarding systemic health screenings
- Deliver continuing education class to RDHs about the following:
  - Oral systemic link
  - Patient risk factors
  - Cost breakdown for chairside screenings
  - How to take chairside blood glucose
- Provide helpful chairside guide to RDHs in attendance at the program

Survey Results & Findings

The Program

- Following IRB approval, a 21-question survey was distributed electronically to the Washington County and Portland Dental Hygienists’ Association components
- A continuing education class was delivered at the Washington County Dental Hygienists’ Association component meeting on March 31, w/42 people in attendance
- A chairside guide was provided to meeting attendees regarding normal ranges for hypertension & blood glucose, as well as a CDT code for screening (D0191)
- Post evaluation surveys were distributed after the presentation to evaluate the effectiveness of the program

Impact & Next Steps

Impact: The presentation has the potential impact of shifting dental hygienists’ practice toward more comprehensive, systemic, and prevention-focused care in the dental office through chairside screenings.

Next Steps: Following this presentation the investigators plan to advocate for the standardization of blood glucose testing for patients who have diabetes, symptoms of diabetes or who exhibit risk factors for diabetes (ie: obesity, physical inactivity, family history).

Evaluation

Investigators distributed a post-presentation evaluation survey to dental hygienists regarding the effectiveness of the information presented.

- 100% agreed or strongly agreed the information was useful
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they are confident in taking a patient’s blood glucose
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the presenters appeared knowledgeable about the subject

References


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