Chairside Screening In The Dental Setting

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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.

Survey Results & Findings

Is Blood Glucose Being Taken Before a Dental Appointment For a Patient w/Diabetes

- 82% of respondents said no.
- 18% of respondents said yes.

What are Potential Barriers to Implementing Preventative Adjuncts (Monitoring BP, BG, A1C, Patient Education, etc.) to Dental Treatments? (Choose All That Apply)

- Time
- Training
- Staff
- Cost
- Other
- Relevance

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 implementation of preventative adjuncts during chairside screenings.

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.

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References