HEB

Journal of Prosthodontics Dentistry (JOPD)
An Official Publication of Bureau for Health & Education Status Upliftment
(Constitutionally Entitled As Health-Education, Bureau)

JOPD

Awareness of General Dentist's Regarding Geriatric Dental Care Requirements for Institutionalized Elderly

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The geriatric population in a developing nation like India is the center for health care needs. Improving the quality of life of the aged population results in better life expectancy. Overall health of the elderly population is also influenced by good oral health. Elderly patients are not only confined to their homes but many patients are also under institutionalized care. Hence, rendering dental services to the elderly in institutions becomes an important factor in improving the general lifestyle of these patients.

Objectives: Hence the objective of the study was to find if general dentists are aware regarding the geriatric dental care requirement for institutionalized patients.

Methods: This is the descriptive study based on questionnaire were based on participants opinions on oral health care provision older people who live in institution. In the questionnaire given dental practitioners were asked to response 15 likert type items representing the provision and ability to treat institutionalized elderly.

Results: General dentists have limited awareness and were treating the geriatric patients like any other patient during their routine clinical practice.

Conclusion: With the rise in geriatric population, the need is high to care for the elderly. But unfortunately the awareness is little among general practitioners. Hence, in the near future Gerodontology should be considered and included as a part of curriculum in dental institutions for the well-being of aging population in India.

Access this Article Online	
Website:http://heb-nic.in/jopd-issues/	Quick Response Code:
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