

Dentist's responsibilities and ethics in oral health prevention

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In the United States, the view of dentists is ambivalent, and the expression drill-fill-bill is sometimes used to emphasize the negative aspect. It has also been pointed out that dentists in Korea also focus on implants and dental prosthodontic treatment, which is not desirable in terms of oral health.

The goal of preventive dentistry is to maintain natural teeth while keeping the oral cavity healthy, and this is also the social and ethical responsibility of dentists.

To prevent oral disease, it is necessary to understand the disease process.

The progression of a disease is a continuous process like a spectrum, but in medicine, this process is divided into two categories: disease and health. However, there is always an intermediate stage between disease and health where function declines. In general medicine, the focus has been on detecting and managing the subclinical phase of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, rather than the clinical phase when symptoms appear.

In dentistry, preventive dentistry has paid more attention to the preclinical phase, which is asymptomatic but may cause functional decline, rather than the surgical treatment for severe oral diseases. There are two main targets that preventive dentistry can approach: the first is "early detection" of the stage of functional decline before the disease, and the second is appropriate "early management" of the detected initial condition. For early detection, methods of detecting the biofluorescence of dental biofilm and a self-questionnaire can be useful.

In early management, the detected biofilm can be appropriately removed by professional or self-methods, and fluoride and various antibacterial agents can be used. For elderly people with reduced oral function, it is also useful in clinical practice to use 2-minute oral exercises to promote saliva secretion.

This lecture will explain various methods for effective early detection and early management of the preclinical phase of oral disease.

Profile

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