

PREVENTION FOR THE ELDERLY PATIENTS

Prof. Alexandre Mersel

Senior Research Fellow
Department of
Community Dentistry
Hadassah, Faculty of Dental
Medicine Jerusalem
Regional Director FDI
Continuing Education
Programme

The aging of the elderly population is a dramatic demographic fact.

One of the most important challenges of the dental profession in the coming years will be in providing oral care to geriatric patients.

The new trend is that the elderly will have more retained teeth and that their expectation will be greater. On the other hand the increase of their life-span will increasingly affect their medical status, therefore the profession has to develop an adapted prevention management and treatment strategy.

The main field of action will be:

Prevention of the Dental caries

A special preventive protocol and a conservative approach is necessary in order to achieve a maximum of teeth when aging "20 teeth for the eighties".

Oral cancer

Oral cancer has a high morbidity and mortality rate. The 5-year survival rate is 75% for local lesions but only 17% for those with distant metastasis. Oral cancer constitutes 13-16 % of all cancers, therefore early detection, and preventive attitudes

and actions are compulsory. The profession must start with an education program both for the practitioner and the patients.

Salivary hypo function

With aging a great decrease of the saliva flow is noted. Aside from the normal gland hypo function more than 700 medications are known to cause dry mouth. Bad taste, bad breath and more root caries are the direct consequences. Prevention and control of the salivary pH is indicated.

Periodontal Prevention

With the loss of periodontal attachments, bad habits (smoking), poor conservative restoration and poor prosthodontic rehabilitation, the elderly are often subject to chronic periodontal diseases.

This situation will finally lead to the loss of their teeth, in a way that step by step they will be edentulous.

Edentulism is now recognized by the WHO as a real disability. Special attention should be taken in order to provide a large preventive treatment including, of course, the education and motivation of these patients.

[https://doi.org/10.25241/stomaeduj.2014.1\(1\).art.1](https://doi.org/10.25241/stomaeduj.2014.1(1).art.1)

Alexandre Mersel

Senior Research Fellow Department of Community Dentistry Hadassah
Faculty of Dental Medicine Jerusalem
Regional Director FDI Continuing Education Programme



CV

Prof. Alexandre Mersel is a Professor at the Faculty of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem, having worked in research for over 30 years. He has published 87 scientific articles and 3 chapters in academic textbooks. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Community Dentistry Hadassah, a Member of the Education Committee of the FDI, the Regional Director for the FDI Continuing Education Program and a Member in the Editorial board of several International Journals. Among his past accomplishments we mention the City of Paris Silver Medal (1986), the fact that he was a Consultant on the Prime Minister's commission of Public Health (1982) and Co-founder and vice-President of the International Association of Gerodontology (1985- 1986).