

A 85 year old male presents with chief complaint "pain in the mouth". Patient has been a resident in a long-term care rehabilitation facility for a month due to recovery from a cardiac surgery. Patient has a PEG tube insertion due to esophageal collapse, and Total Enteral Nutrition is administered through the PEG tube. Patient is lactose intolerant, and patient experiences great discomfort from the lactose-containing Total Enteral Nutrition.

Patient has a pair of ill-fitting maxillary and mandibular complete dentures. Patient exhibits soreness in the gingiva, denture stomatitis, xerostomia and angular cheilitis. Caregivers in the facility do not address oral pain and oral care for the patient. Patient is agitated and frustrated from his overall discomfort. Among the many medications for patient's cardiac condition, psychiatric medications are also prescribed to stabilize patient's mood.

Two important medical facts that oral health care professions can learn from this this case

Aspirational pneumonia
Neglect

IPEC Core Competencies:

All four domains applied.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Could any of patient's discomforts be avoided by early intervention or collaboration with other health professionals?
2. Are there alternative solutions for patient's nutritional deficiency and psychiatric issues?
3. What else could be included in this patient's care plan?

Partially Completed Case

Forty-two year old Caucasian male presents to the dental office with CC of several broken painful teeth. Medical history is unremarkable except for recent report of weight loss, fever of 103, chills and cough. Blood pressure is 161/96 and temperature is 78. Oral exam reveals hairy tongue, candida, broken carious teeth with generalized gingivitis, calculus and halitosis. Some teeth are fractured to gum line with exposed root tips. Patient admits to use of methamphetamines.

1. Which professions can be utilized to assist with this patient?

M.D.
Psych/Additional Spec/Drug Counselor
Dentist/hygienist/OS/Pros
OMED

2. How should needs be prioritized?

Rx → Med consult → dental pain → DxTx/OM → hygiene → FM reconstruction

3. List findings that would prompt referrals and why?

Oral conditions reflecting systemic disease or risk factors

4. List IPEC Core Competencies

5. Write a medical consult that would achieve goals from a dental perspective