Risk Assessment in Predoctoral Periodontics

Results of a National Survey of U.S. Dental Schools

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Survey Design

- Email invitation to all pre-doctoral program directors or program chairs inviting participation
- Survey administered electronically using REDCap
- Survey sections
  - Risk assessment in pre-doctoral didactic and clinical curriculum
  - Assessment of local risk elements
  - Assessment of systemic risk elements
  - Assessment of environmental risk elements
  - Assessment of prior exposure to periodontal disease
Survey Results

- 53 schools initially agreed to participate
- 45 schools completed the survey
- 85% response rate
- Data collated by REDCap
Risk Assessment in the Didactic and Clinical Curriculums

- 42/45 teach RA in didactic curriculum
- 39/45 teach RA in clinic setting
- 21/44 have a RA questionnaire
- 28/45 use electronic recording of RA
Timing for Teaching Risk Assessment

**Didactic teaching**

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

**Clinical teaching**

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

Categories: Didactic teaching, Clinical use
Discussion/Presentation of Risk Assessment

![Bar chart showing frequency of clinical case presentations by year: Freshman year has the highest frequency, followed by Senior year, then Junior year, and Sophomore year has the lowest frequency.](chart.png)
Is Periodontal Risk Assessment an Important Component of the Case Presentation?

🌟 20/32 said yes!
Risk Assessment and Utilization

- 41/45 use RA to develop a treatment plan
- 21/45 use the same SRP/OHI treatment plan irrespective of RA results
- 35/45 use adjunctive therapies for subgingival chemotherapeutics and/or systemic host modulation
Risk Element Assessment, Utilization, and Re-evaluation
Risk Assessment for Local Elements

- 44/45 routinely assess plaque control
- 37/45 routinely assess calculus
- 42/45 routinely assess overhanging margins
- 45/45 routinely assess furcation involvement
Risk Assessment for Systemic Elements

- 45/45 routinely document medical histories
- 34/45 routinely document family medical histories
- 45/45 document systemic conditions incl. diabetes
- 13/45 document diabetic status with glucometer
Risk Assessment for Systemic Elements

- 9/45 document obesity (BMI or hip/waist measures)
- 22/45 take height/weight measures
- 45/45 take vital signs and medications
- 31/45 assess ASA medical risk status
Risk Assessment of Environmental Elements

- 45/45 document exposure to tobacco products
- 31/45 record smoking exposure in “pack years”
- 4/45 document exposure to “secondhand smoke”
- 8/45 assess a patient’s level of stress
- 38/45 document frequency of prior dental visits
- 19/45 document prior exposure to oral health education
Risk Assessment of Prior Exposure to Periodontal Disease

![Bar Graph]

- PSR
- Comp. perio exam
- Pocket depth
- GM-CEJ
- Recession
- Attachment loss
- Bleeding
- Age and Disease
- Prior response to therapy

Frequency
Conclusions of the National Survey

Clinical Risk Assessment and Treatment

- Less than 50% of respondents have a specific RA questionnaire
- Less than 50% of respondents modify the plan for initial therapy based on RA results
- However, over 75% of respondents use adjunctive therapies for subgingival chemotherapeutics and/or systemic host modulation
Conclusions of the National Survey

**Systemic Risk Assessment**

- 75% of respondents routinely document family medical histories
- Approximately 25% of respondents document diabetic status with glucometer
- Only 20% of respondents document obesity (BMI or hip/waist measures)
- Only 50% of respondents take height/weight measures
- 69% assess ASA medical risk status
Conclusions of the National Survey

- Environmental:
  - 68% record smoking exposure in “pack years”
  - Less than 10% document exposure to “secondhand smoke”
  - Less than 20% assess a patient’s level of stress
  - Approximately 40% document prior exposure to oral health education