

The Collaboration of Dental and Medical Specialists to Achieve Optimal Patient Care

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Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General (2000)

Monumental because it:

- Described the definition of oral health and the diseases which affect the oral cavity.
- Highlighted the disparities that exist among Americans with respect to oral health.
- Explored the relationship between oral health and general well-being.
- Explored the role of the individual and health care provider in promoting and maintaining oral health.

The oral cavity: A gateway to the body

- The mouth is the gateway to the body. A patient's overall health can be predicted based upon the state of their oral cavity.

Dental+Medical Providers= Oral Health Team



Keys to Establishing a Great Collaborative Team

- Develop rapport with the referring specialist.
- Establish guidelines for referring patients.
- Keep the lines of communication open.
- Be accessible for exam room consultations.
- Remember, helping the patient obtain optimal health is job #1.

Patient Profile #1

- 30 y.o. African American male presents for toothache.
- ROS reveals patient with the following conditions:
 - Uncontrolled diabetes (Blood sugar > 300)
 - Hypertension (BP 160/105)
- Patient referred to Dr. Colbert to resume medical care. Rx provided for treatment of outlined medical conditions. Following 3-4 weeks patient returned to dental for extractions.

Patient Profile #2

- 42 y.o. Caucasian male with severe periodontitis presents due to mobile teeth.
- Patient had uncontrolled hypertension.
- Referred to medical for diagnosis and prescription drugs.
- Patient later returned for necessary extractions.

Collaboration Outside of CVHS

- Referrals from CMH Women's Center for prenatal patients requiring emergent care.
- Referrals from community physicians requesting patients receive care due to systemic disease or transplant clearance.
- Referrals from school nurses because a child is in pain.

Questions?