

The Importance of Implementing Oral Health Care Education in the Lehigh Valley

Kayla Birde
Lafayette College

Christina Peters
Pennsylvania State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/research-scholars-posters>

Published In/Presented At

Birde, K., Peters, C. (2015, July 31). *The Importance of Implementing Oral Health Care Education in the Lehigh Valley*. Poster presented at LVHN Research Scholar Program Poster Session, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.

The Importance of Implementing Oral Health Care Education in the Lehigh Valley

Kayla Birde, Christina Peters- Department of Dental Medicine 17th Street
 Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Introduction

- In the United States, the epidemic of poor oral hygiene is a continuing problem that is leading to a range of other chronic conditions in people.
- Periodontal disease is seen in 1 out of every 2 American adults over the age of 30. The concern with periodontitis is that people who do have the condition are 40% more likely to have a chronic illness on top of it
- The chronic illnesses that arise due to poor oral health include:
 - Endocarditis, cardiovascular disease, premature birth and pregnancy complications, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, osteoporosis, and Alzheimer’s disease
- Finding a way to get the information to the population in the Lehigh Valley Health Network about the significance of oral hygiene and ways to improve their oral health could eliminate the amount of people with urgent and severe dental problems, as well as improve their chronic illnesses.

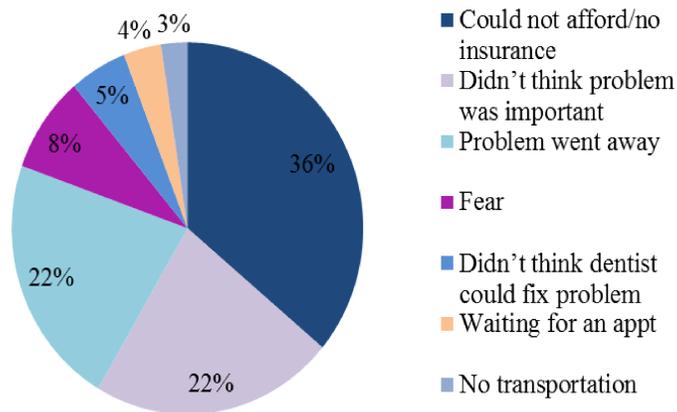


Figure 1. Chart of the data collected from the CDC of adults aged 18-64 within a 6 month period with dental related problem who did not seek professional help or advice

Objectives

- Propose a new plan for patient education in the 17th Street Clinic
- Create an idea for an effective pamphlet to inform patients about the risks associated with poor oral health
- Improve oral hygiene education for the patients of the dental clinics within the Lehigh Valley Health Network- 17th Street Clinic

Methodology

Clinical Observation - LVHN 17th Street Dental Clinic

Our observation of clinical practice at the 17th Street clinic in Allentown, PA provided better understanding of patient population, level of education, and the cause of their dental problems.

Observed Current Patient Education System

The clinic has a program for oral hygiene education, but its content and distribution can be improved.

Propose a Plan for Better Patient Education

The current pamphlet needs to be revised for the patient pool that is being served. When improving the content and information it must be informative and representative of proper oral hygiene in the simplest way possible. The improved pamphlet will need to include information regarding proper daily routine, possible consequences of not following a routine, and understanding overall oral health.

Recommendations

- Improved educational pamphlet
- Multi-lingual Video Tutorial
- Effective communication of staff to demonstrate proper oral hygiene with patients
- Increased distribution of the information

Expected Results

- Immediately after an increase in education and a solidified initial treatment plan is made, it is hopeful and expected that patients will be more aware of their oral health and the amount of additional treatment needed would be reduced.
- After implementation of the new education plan we expect to see a decrease in the number of patients with common dental related issues such as carries, periodontal disease, and overall healthiness of the teeth and surrounding tissues.

Conclusions

- In order for there to be significant improvement the plan needs to be implemented and reviewed with the entire staff in the dental clinic
- This quality improvement project will help the entire Lehigh Valley Health Network community improve the quality of life for patients

© 2014 Lehigh Valley Health Network

Acknowledgements:

Patricia Atno- 17th Street Dental Clinic Practice Manager
 Charles Incalcaterra, DMD- Program Director
 Thank you to all the dental residents and assistants for their help.