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Medically compromised patients: The dentists' nightmare**N Kannan**

Narayana Dental College & Hospital, India

Present day advances in medical sciences and technology has resulted in substantial increase in the volume of dental patients with systemic illnesses. The term **Medically Compromised** refers to dental patients with impaired health status like pregnancy, or patients with systemic diseases like ischemic heart disease, congenital heart disease, liver disease, renal disease, asthma, patients with immunodeficiency and patients with altered immune status. Absence or inadequacy of precautions needed to be taken while carrying out routine dental treatment in these patients may result in worsening their medical status or even result in a fatality. Care needs to be taken while prescribing medications for these patients in the form of altered dosage or altering the medications themselves. Medico-legal litigations are reportedly on the rise in all the countries across the globe due to increased patient activism and awareness of their rights and sensationalization of such cases by the media. Worsening of the patient's medical status or fatality occurring as a result of inadequacy of precautions can prove to be nightmarish to the dentist's practice, life and reputation. Many of these medical conditions can be identified by detailed case history recording and thorough clinical examination. There may be alterations in the oral cavity as a result of some of these systemic diseases or due to medications/treatment received for these diseases which may present as taste alterations, salivary alterations, oral ulcerations, petechiae, ecchymosis, pigmentations, candidiasis, necrosis and gingival overgrowth. This presentation will be highlighting the maxillofacial & general clinical features useful for suspecting presence of the underlying systemic conditions and precautions needed to be taken during the dental treatment of these patients.

Biography

Dr. N. Kannan Completed graduation from Government Dental College, Hyderabad in 1991; Did Post Graduation in Oral Medicine & Radiology from S.D.M.COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, Dharwad in 1995; Did Diploma in Hospital Administration from National Institute for Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi in 2015; Tobacco Intervention Initiative Specialist Trained from I.D.A. since 2012; Is a Grandmaster in Reiki Therapy; Founder President of Tobacco Free Initiative of Narayana. Presently working as Professor & Head, Department of Oral Medicine & Radiology in Narayana Dental College & Hospital, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh with a teaching & clinical experience of 21years. Has given 23 Guest Lectures in National Specialty Conferences, P.G.Conventions, International Conferences & Symposia. Has about 22 publications in International & National Journals; Post graduate examiner in 7 universities across India; Has guided 40 post graduate students in the specialty of Oral Medicine & Radiology; Presently also working as the Honorary General Secretary Indian Dental Association, for Nellore Branch; Recipient of 2 Best Paper Awards, Vaidya Acharya Award, Felicitation by the Indian Academy of Oral Medicine & Radiology for outstanding contributions to the specialty.

dentkan1@gmail.com

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