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Helping cancer patients with treatment-induced oral sores

Mouth sores, mouth ulcers, or oral mucositis (OM) are frequent and important issues for patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. Dentists are frequently asked by oncologists to perform a routine dental exam and cleaning prior to a patient beginning chemotherapy. But more can be and needs to be done. Routine scaling and rooting planning (RSP) may disrupt biofilms and exposes tissues to the second infection, just as a patient becomes immune compromised by treatment. and once treatment begins, severe OM is a likely outcome, threatening the patient's ability to eat and swallow. In this presentation, we review the most prevalent drugs and type of cancers associated with OM, a knowledge not well documented in the literature. Also, we present for discussion case studies of individuals undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, the onset of OM during their treatment, and their management of OM. The presentation concludes with a review of the characteristics of oral care products used in their treatment plan.

Biography

James L Ratcliff is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Rowpar Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ, maker of the Dentists Choice and ClōSYS brands of oral care products. In 2014, Rowpar received the U.S. Small Business Administration's Exporter of the Year Award. From 1989 to 2000, he served as the senior research scientist, professor, and director, Center for the Study of Higher Education at the Pennsylvania State University. From 1979 to 1989, he was the professor and program head for higher education at Iowa State University. He is an author of 120 articles, books, book chapters, is co-inventor on over 24 patents and patents pending. He is the active member of the Arizona Biotechnology Assn., American Academy of Oral and Systemic Health, American Education Research Assn., and the International Association for Dental Research. He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Washington State University, a M.A. in History from Washington State University, and a B.A. from Utah State University.

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