



ADVANCING EDUCATION
AND ORAL HEALTH



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RUTGERS HEALTH
School of Dental Medicine

UIC
barcelona

Training social skills through dental visits to elderly patients in nursing homes

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#01 Background

As highlighted by the WHO, life expectancy is steadily increasing, and as a result there are more older adults who require age-related care, including oral health care.

Oral health remains one of the biggest barriers for people living in nursing homes, due to different factors including general and mental health, which make it difficult for them to access effective oral healthcare.

Training students in Gerodontology is becoming increasingly important within the curriculum. According to the literature, there are a wide variety of approaches to integrating this training into the Dentistry curriculum.

#02 Aim

The aim of this study was to analyse the oral health status of elderly patients in nursing homes during the 2025-2026 academic year and the learning outcomes of the students.



#03 Materials & Methods

Participants

#1

4th year students

#2

3 nursing homes

#3

Elder residents



#03 Materials & Methods

Data recollection patients

#1

General data from
the patient

#3

Dependency data
(Barthel Index)

#2

Oral condition (oral
examination & OHIP-
Sp5 survey)

#4

Cognitive level
(Neurological test)

#03 Materials & Methods

Data recollection students

Continuous assessment and feedback from the clinical instructor that supervise the visits in nursing homes.



#04 Results

Participants

#1

4th year students

Total: 130

Men: 39 (30%)

Female: 91 (70%)

#2

Elder residents

Total: 194

Men: 76 (39.17%).

Female: 118 (60.83%)

**Age: 58-101, some patients
don't remember**

The majority of the patients were visited one time.

#04 Results

Students learnt:

#1 Communication skills in difficult situations.

#3 No let their emotions in difficult situations.

#2 Carry out assessment in general patient's health.

#4 Empathy and build rapport with the patient.

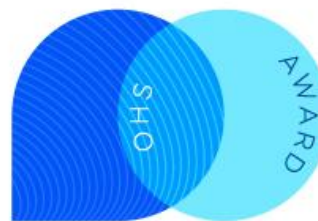


#05 Conclusions

- #1 Students visits help to monitor the oral health of patients in nursing homes, particularly those who find it difficult to visit a dental clinic.
- #2 Students learn to work outside their comfort zone and to gain a new perspective on the dental needs of patients they do not usually treat.
- #3 Students gain a stronger awareness of the health benefits of these visits for the oral and general health of this social group through practical activities rather than theoretical learning.



#06 Future expectations



PREVENTATIVE
ORAL HEALTH
IN SOCIETY
AWARD

SUPPORTED BY HALEON

This initiative is in line with the award received last year, so the aim is to continue to empower elderly people and/or their caregivers in relation to patient's oral hygiene habits.

Follow-up visits will be carried out, focusing on the effectiveness of motivational techniques and on teaching oral care.





Oral care improves the general health of older patients

Thanks

Does anyone have any questions?

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