

Improving oral health of the geriatric patients: effects of an evidence-based oral care intervention protocol.
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PB6 263 IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH OF THE GERIATRIC PATIENTS: EFFECTS OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED ORAL CARE INTERVENTION PROTOCOL
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Introduction: Geriatric patients are susceptible to have poor oral health. Yet, health care professionals has placed least attention to improve oral care practice in geriatric setting. This study examined the effects of an evidence-based oral care intervention protocol on oral health and oral health-related quality of life of geriatric patients. **Methods and Materials:** This non-equivalent control group pre-test post-test study was conducted in a regional hospital in Hong Kong. Upon hospital admission, 120 geriatric patients (experimental group) received the evidence-based oral care interventions whereas the other 72 (control group) received the usual oral care. Baseline assessment of oral health and oral health-related quality of life was assessed by using the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) and the Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index (GOHAI), respectively. Repeated assessment was done at 3-day and 6-day thereafter. Two-way repeated measure analysis of variance was used to detect the group difference in the oral health outcomes. **Results:** The geriatric patients had poor baseline oral health status, particularly cracked lip (73.2%), dental caries (63.5%), tongue problems (83.1) and poor oral hygiene (87.8%). By comparing the changes in the OHAT and GOHAI scores between the control and experimental groups, the evidence-based oral care intervention protocol significantly improved the lip condition ($p<0.001$), gum tissue ($p=0.035$), oral dryness ($p=0.024$) and cleanliness ($p=0.003$) of the geriatric patients. The protocol also significantly improved their oral health-related quality of life ($p=0.022$), particularly in the pain and discomfort dimension. **Conclusion:** This study showed that geriatric patients had high demand for good oral care. The evidence-based oral care intervention protocol would be an effective practice to improve the oral health of geriatric patients.