

Best Practice Guidelines and Practical Strategies for Oral Care and Dementia

July 24, 2007 Mary-Lou van der Horst Ellen Ross



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

Oral Care

Recent Developments

Review some basic mouth care information

BP Blogger April Issue: Mouth Care www.rgpc.ca



2

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

lyth Busting: The Mouth Care Issue



Myth 1: Teeth are just for looks

the mouth can affect residents'

overall health and wellness. Oral problems experienced by the residents are usually preventable and not due to aging. Plaque-related oral diseases, although normally not life threatening for older adults, can have an effect on their medical conditions, general health, nutrition and quality of life. Research has found that older persons with poor dental plaque control are susceptible to bacteria

entering their bloodstream. • Decline in saliva flow This bacteria has been found in the clots of persons who have had strokes. Plaque that accumulates on natural teeth and dentures can be • Higher levels of tooth aspirated into the lungs which puts the resident at high risk for aspiration pneumonia. Gum disease may also increase their risk critical to prevent serious for heart disease. As well, problems. Untreated residents with diabetes have higher levels of gum diseases. Studies have found older adults with dementia, especially moderate to severe, have: socialization.

- Greater accumulation of plaque on teeth and dentures
- Increased responsive behaviours during oral care
 - decay, missing teeth and gum diseases

Regular assessment of the inside of the mouth is problems can cause pain and discomfort that may get in the way of eating and swallowing, their overall nutrition, as well as



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

19 October 2007



Myth 1: Teeth are just for looks

- Problems in the mouth can affect residents' overall health and wellness.
- Oral problems experienced by the residents are usually preventable and not due to aging.
- Plaque-related oral diseases, although normally not life threatening for older adults, can have an effect on their medical conditions, general health, nutrition and quality of life.

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



Myth 1: Teeth are just for looks

- Research has found that older persons with poor dental plaque control are susceptible to bacteria entering their bloodstream. This bacteria has been found in the clots of persons who have had strokes.
- Plaque that accumulates on natural teeth and dentures can be aspirated into the lungs which puts the resident at high risk for aspiration pneumonia.



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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Myth 1: Teeth are just for looks

- Gum disease may also increase their risk for heart disease. As well, residents with diabetes have higher levels of gum diseases.
- Studies have found older adults with dementia, especially moderate to severe, have:
 - · Decline in saliva flow
 - Greater accumulation of plaque on teeth and dentures
 - Increased responsive behaviours during oral care
 - Higher levels of tooth decay, missing teeth and gum diseases



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



Myth 1: Teeth are just for looks

- Regular assessment of the inside of the mouth is critical to prevent serious problems.
- Untreated problems can cause pain and discomfort that may get in the way of eating and swallowing, their overall nutrition, as well as socialization.



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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Myth 2: It's just a dry mouth, no big deal

A dry mouth can lead to serious tooth decay and oral infections. Numerous medications and medical conditions can cause a dry mouth. Residents who complain of a dry mouth (not having enough saliva or spit to keep their mouth moist and comfortable) may also have:

- Difficulty eating / chewing / swallowing
- Difficulty speaking
- Changes in taste / bod breath
 - Swollen and red tongue
 Painful or bleeding gums
 - Burning
 - Poor retention of dentures .

Avoid lemon glycerine swabs, mouthrinses and toothpastes that contain alcohol, sodium lauryl sulfate (most brands) or flavouring agents , candies or mints, sweet/spicy or bulky foods, caffeine, and tobacco as they worsen the dryness.

Use special dry mouth products and toothpastes, sip water or suck on ice chips, use water-based lip lubricant,

sugar-free candies / gum, rinse with club soda, moisturize mouth with artificial saliva sprays/gels, review medications, and consult with an oral health professional.



8

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



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mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



Myth 2: It's just a dry mouth, no big deal

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 - dry mouth products and toothpastes
 - sip water
 - suck on ice chips



- water-based lip lubricant (not petroleum)
- sugar-free candies / gum
- rinse with club soda
- moisturize mouth with artificial saliva sprays/gels
- review medications
- and consult with an oral health professional.

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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Myth 3: Resistance - it's not worth the risk

Care of the mouth is one of the most basic and important personal care activities in LTC and it needs to be carried out consistently. High levels of oral diseases and conditions are found in older adults who have increased functional/care dependence, multiple medications and cognitive impairment. For



cognitively impaired residents, completing regular oral care can be a challerging task especially when the resident refuses and shows responsive behaviours such as pushing, grabbing and bitting. It's very important that residents get oral care twice a day. Here are some tips in helping to getting the oral care done.

- ever assume that residents who can do their awn oral care have actually one it. Confirm that it has been done. Look in the mouth if necessary.
- Encourage the resident to do as much as possible.
- Do oral care in the washroom as it has many built in cues and prompts
- "No" means: leave, come back later and try again—either you or another staff member Assist using the "hand-over-hand" technique to guide the toothbrush in the mouth.
- Use distraction such as singing, using soft soothing words, giving the resident an item to ho such as a toothbrush, rolled up washcloth
- Using 2 large handled toothbrushes with rubber grip, place one handle in the mouth to bite on and use the other to clean
- Wear gloves, place fingers only between lips or cheeks and gums, never stick your ers between upper and lower teeth.

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



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- It needs to be carried out consistently.
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mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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14

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mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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Myth 4: Soaking dentures overnight is enough

Plaque sticks to dentures just the same as is sticks to natural teeth.
Soaking dentures oversight in a same as is sticks to natural teeth.
Soaking dentures overnight in a
denture cup with a cleansing tablet is
not enough. Denture cleaning tablets
should not be used for residents who
have dementia.

Here are some denture care tips:

Toombrush is
used to clean
the polarite, tongue, cheeks and
ridges of the mouth.

Line the sink with a towel. Fill it with
some cool water just in case the
dentures slip and fall. Hot water can
warp dentures.

- Check the resident's care plan and review their daily oral care
- *Wear gloves
 *If the resident's lips are dry, moisten them with a non-petroleum based product (e.g. Lipsol)
 *Ask the resident to remove their
- especially those that touch the gums. Rinse well.

 Ask the resident to remove their dentures side themselves. For upper dentures side then push gently against the back of the denture to break the seal. Grosp if and remove by rotating it, frough lower dentures at the front and notate. For partial dentures, place thumbhalls ower or under the class, payly pressure, being careful to not bend the class and extended to turn block are carrying them to the washroom.

 Place dentures in a denture cup if you are carrying them to the washroom.

- A regular toothbrush is used to clean the palate, tongue, cheeks and ridges of the mouth.

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mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



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mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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- Here are some denture care tips:
 - Check the resident's care plan and review their daily oral care
 - Wear gloves
 - If the resident's lips are dry, moisten them with a non-petroleum based product (e.g. Lipsol)
 - Ask the resident to remove their dentures.
 Assist, if they can't remove it themselves.

18

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



Myth 4: Soaking dentures overnight is enough

Here are some denture care tips:

- For upper dentures slide your index finger along the denture's side then push gently against the back of the denture to break the seal.
- Grasp it and remove by rotating it.
- Grasp lower dentures at the front and rotate.
- For partial dentures, place thumbnails over or under the clasps, apply pressure, being careful to not bend the clasps and catch them on lips or gums.



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Myth 4: Soaking dentures overnight is enough

Here are some denture care tips:

- Place dentures in a denture cup if you are carrying them to the washroom.
- A regular toothbrush is used to clean the palate, tongue, cheeks and ridges of the mouth.
- Line the sink with a towel. Fill it with some cool water just in case the dentures slip and fall. Hot water can warp dentures.
- Rinse the denture with cold water to remove any food



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com



Myth 4: Soaking dentures overnight is enough

Here are some denture care tips:

- Scrub dentures, use a denture brush and denture paste with cool water.
- Thoroughly brush all surfaces especially those that touch the gums. Rinse well.
- Always put the upper denture in first then lower one to avoid gagging
- At bedtime place dentures placed in a denture cup containing cool water and vinegar. Denture tablet is not enough.



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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Myth 4: Soaking dentures overnight is enough

Here are some denture care tips:

- If the resident refuses, then take them out for 2-3 hours during the day to give mouth tissue a chance to breathe and rest.
- Never use vinegar on dentures with any metal on them as this will cause the metal to turn black.
- In the morning, remove dentures from the denture cup and rinse well before placing in the resident's mouth.
- Remember to scrub the denture cup thoroughly once a week to prevent bacterial or fungal growth.

22

mv and erhorst @oak wood retirement.com

Oral Care

Recent Developments

- RNAO
- Due to be released late Summer 2007
- new Nursing Best practice Guideline for Oral Health
 - Practice (12)
 - Education (2)
 - Organization & Policy (7)



23

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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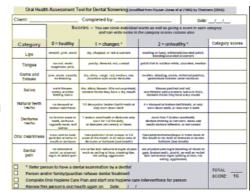
RNAO Oral Health: Nursing Assessment and Interventions

Sample Tools available in the Appendix

Sample 4: Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) also know as the Modified Brief Oral Health Status Examination

For use in long-term care or residential care settings, which can be used with cognitively impaired clients

(Chalmers, 2004)



24

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

RNAO Oral Health: Nursing Assessment and Interventions

Sample Tools available in the Appendix

Appendix F: Sample Care Plans

The following are examples of care plans that were developed to facilitate communication regarding the plan of care for individuals receiving oral health care.

Chalmers (2004)

For use in the long-term care setting





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RNAO Oral Health: Nursing Assessment and Interventions

Sample Tools available in the Appendix

Appendix G:
Oral Hygiene Products

Toomsrostee	DOM: SI	 and invalid bottomises are Determed to avoid injuring the treets and grapping organization may be more effective at favoring official sease the shake and so of the bottomise should be crossed to suff the paleints of the bottomise should be crossed to sufficiently about 2002; http://www.cdp. acc. calcinotion (Justice Colored Colore	Total Supries should be repaired at easy specified and supries specified and supries to air-displaced from the supries specific and supries to air-displaced from the supries specified and supries to air-displaced from the supries specified and spe
	Powered	 Oscitatine, rotating powered teethtrashes can be more effective in removing plaque that traditional manual traditionalities (Bostonean, Deacon et al. 2000). 	
	Susten	 Cinical reports suggest the use of auction trombrushes in individuals diagnosed with dysphagia or those who we inhibited. 	
Onal Rinese	Regular	Altoholt hased and interes should be avoided for patients who experience orymnests Commounted east rinese should be avoided. One arress should contain fluence for dentate avolutions.	 Fluorido is a chamical agent which neminerations and protects teeth from demineral tortion (Ayatt and MacGinse 1997). Enactues containing fluoristic (Institucional and and drawn) are only recessary for demining patterns.
	Chlorusidhe	Odo fecelidas éras or gal la a arteni ondiad agual	 Present connect neth pharmacian, during house anator physicians at feature using the product of the pharmacian statement of the pharmacian result is tools afterward and brown obtaining of one index discussion of donution of the pharmacian of the pharmacian of the pharmacian of the pharmacian of 2: houses again of the pharmacian of product is 42 to 55. Produced connects allowed by product is 42 to 55.
Foom Swalls		Prodni swale may be used to balkary yapity driver products for patients safe apprinting sensitive mucosa in they be used to remove surface sensitive bears but is reducine plaque removal and glogical sprint/stone, even when contained with water sides (virgle et al., 2003, sheatson or both they are the contained with water sides (virgle et al., 2003, sheatson or both they are the contained and they are	C Upsing a south truten in memory debits it involves effective (memory) and institution 2000 or Use with eauton in certained patients who are at this of coming also sweatowing chorang on exact.
	Eamon glycerin		 Lemon and glycomic sector cause softening and erosion of the troth enamel (Meuman, Sorvan et al. 1996)
Salivo Sebstitutos		 Can facilitate channing swallowing, speaking and lessen night time awakenings due to dry mouth (Ferumeto, Barker et al. 1995) Medicated care with disorteredine acetatriyulifol shown to reduce disease stomatics and chellita (Simone, Basilitation of pl. 2007) 	
Moistaripees		White-hansel products are excontrolated over petroleum products (e.g., Vaneline)	 Water-based products ignizate the cry tissues while patroleum products patroarily serve-to prevent further mointees loss. If sofe, sign of water can be the heat hydronor.
Clearers		 The tergue should be trushed or cleaned to exist a had breath. Tangue sarappers or deaners are more effective in reducing field breath than brushing alone (Outheuse, Ar- Alaes et al. 2003). 	- 1 000, 140 N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N
footspacing		The chance of tropping about depart on the individualizated of tropping states.	individuals diagnosed with dysphagia or for those wind comnot betweet libers. Theorisated pades for deviate individuals but non-Buorisated for those who are edentuced. Use a toothouse for severative weight recorded
Tues		 Person y will dean unexposed surfaces of the reed that are not acceptate by boothings from your or o manages of this product include facilities string those, tools wends interferent string beautions. 	Pollants or Guid the remarked to floor regularly
Nystatin		 An artifuncal agent commonly prescribed to treat Candidal infections 	Preside consoit with pharmacus, dental fears another physician before using the product.
Analgesics		Single agent products should be used Pain resulting from oral complications should be treated system cafe when local measures are uneffective.	 Compounded analogs is oral threes should be ascided as these can delay realing of conditions such as oral musculing.

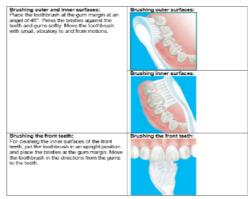
26

mv and erhorst @oak wood retirement.com

RNAO Oral Health: Nursing **Assessment and Interventions**

Sample Tools available in the Appendix

Appendix J: Tooth Brushing Techniques



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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RNAO Oral Health: Nursing **Assessment and Interventions**

Sample Tools available in the Appendix

Appendix K: Approaches to Care

The following approaches to care have been adapted from the Iowa guideline (Research Dissemination Core, 2002) for those working with older adults with cognitive impairment. Nurses working with those with behaviour and/or communication problems, or dementia need to consider their approach to care in order to achieve successful oral hygiene outcomes.

Problem	Micelegy	Action Required
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CHARLES OF THE CAL	Assess won to get one ruppone care completes. Assess the sases of the apprecian.	Address one regions can a since when the certifies indeed adoption. Use other brokespies such as excurring, distriction, etc. Errest the adoptions of protein corregion. Use secretarily protection in the clients one largest state place.
Client does not sententiated conglines directions about and hygonic same	Assess ways to get one rugiene care completed.	Birtist the deletation of another caregiver, Los other techniques such as shoughly, detailed, etc. Let exceed a strategies in the create one

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

Oral Care

Recent Developments

"Oral Care for Residents with Dementia" DVD

Co-produced:

- RNAO
- Halton Public Health Department
- Village of Wentworth Heights (LTC Hamilton)
- Regional Best Practice Coordinator LTC-Central South
- Alzheimer's Society-Hamilton and Halton



\$15 www.rnao.org/bestpractices

416.907.7965

Julie Burris- Best Practice Guideline Sales RNAO



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

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Oral Care Resources

Canadian:

The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (Summer 2007). <u>Oral health. Nursing assessment and interventions.</u> and <u>Oral Care for Residents with Dementia DVD</u>. Toronto, ON: Author. <u>www.rnao.org</u>

Halton Region Health Department (2006). <u>Dental health manual for</u> <u>LTC home staff. Halton oral health outreach project.</u> Oakville, ON: Author.

<u>Centre for Community Oral Health- Long Term Care Fact Sheets.</u>
Nov 2006 <u>www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/dentistry/ccoh</u>

ML vanderHorst (April 2007). BP Blogger: Mouth Care Issue. www.rgpc.ca



mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

Oral Care Resources

Others:

The University of Iowa College of Nursing (2002). <u>Oral hygiene</u> <u>care for functionally dependent and cognitively impaired</u> <u>older adults. Evidence-based practice guideline.</u> Iowa City, Iowa: Author/Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center. <u>www.nursing.uiowa.edu</u>

Joanna Briggs Institute (2004). <u>Oral hygiene care for adults</u> <u>with dementia in residential aged care facilities. Best Practice</u>, 8(4). Adelaide, Australia: Author. <u>www.joannabriggs.edu.au</u>

31

mvanderhorst@oakwoodretirement.com

19 October 2007

Resources: LTC Homes Contact your Regional Best Practice Coordinator

Best Practice Coordinators in Long-Term Care

How we can help your long-term care home use best practice care approaches



Exchange Knowledge

- Locate BP information
- Assist with BP guideline conversion for LTC use
- On-site LTC Home visits
- Consultations
- Education
- Presentations
- Share our knowledge



Develop Resources

- Building capacity within
- Supporting groups and homes working on BPs
- Implementation strategies
- Education tools (e.g. ABCs for BPGs, BP Blogger)



Synchronize Initiatives

- initiatives, networks and organizations
- e.g. RNAO, Stroke, Alzheimer,
- Create new working groups, collaborations and communities of practice
- Endorse and advocate for BP-based care

32

Resources: LTC Homes Contact your Regional Best Practice Coordinator

Where you can find your BP Coordinator

Northeast Lisa Quesnelle Phone: 705-674-5638 Email: <u>Iguesnelle@exte</u>

Northwest Heather Woodbeck Phone: 807-768-4432 Email: <u>woodbech@th</u>

East
Deb Jenkins
Phone: 613-549-4164 x 3164
Email: jenkinsd@peechealth.org

Central East Mary Dupuis Phone: 905-471-3232 x 1107 Email: mary.dupuis@yeehong.com

Central South Mary-Lou van der Horst Phone: 905-541-0656 Enwik myanderhorst@ookwoo



BP Coordinators in LTC Initiative is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care . This Initiative is intended to help nurses and staff in long-term care homes use best practices and incorporate evidence-based practices into their daily care.

Supporting the use of "current knowledge in current practice"

Best Practice Coordinators in Long-Term Care

How we can help your long-term care home use best practice care approaches

Exchange Knowledge

Develop Resources

Synchronize Initiatives

07