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| **Name:** |
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| 7A-2 |
| **Basic Science Question:** |
| What is gerodontology? |
| **Report:** |
| Geriatric dentistry focuses on the oral health and conditions within the ageing community. Seniors over 65 years have an increased need for preventative, restorative, and periodontal dental care. Tooth loss increases with age and has many impacts on the overall wellbeing of seniors including their diet, link to morbidities, and self-esteem. “More than half (53%) of seniors have moderate or severe periodontal disease. There is increasing evidence of the association of periodontal disease with chronic conditions including diabetes, heart disease, and stroke”(Raphael 2017). Many oral health and periodontal issues stem from the use of mouth-drying medications within the older adult community.  The focus and implementation of geriatric dentistry is specific to the oral health status in the aged population. As the humans age, their oral mucosa generally thins out, increasing their susceptibility to pathogens and toxins into the periodontal tissue. Additionally, changes in salivary glands and medications lead to dry mouth, also impacting periodontal health. These changes to the periodontal tissue as well as a variety of other factors such as smoking and poor oral hygiene can lead to edentulism, or tooth loss, in geriatric patients. Their general and oral health status calls for specific preventative measures including adaptive aids/electrical devices for improved hygiene, mechanical plaque removal, and continued visits to the dentist. Additionally, geriatric patients should be exposed to proper denture care techniques such as effective cleaning and soaking in immersion cleansers(Razak 2014). |
| **References:** |
| Raphael C. Oral Health and Aging. Am J Public Health. 2017 May;107(S1):S44-S45. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2017.303835. PMID: 28661797; PMCID: PMC5497890.  Razak PA, Richard KM, Thankachan RP, Hafiz KA, Kumar KN, Sameer KM. Geriatric oral health: a review article. J Int Oral Health. 2014 Nov-Dec;6(6):110-6. PMID: 25628498; PMCID: PMC4295446. |