

# Two-year follow-up: Improving complete oral hygiene practices with psychiatric inpatients

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## Background

The provision of routine oral hygiene care to chronic psychiatric inpatients is a key issue, as the long-term use of psychiatric medications causes xerostomia and changes in saliva secretion, resulting in susceptibility to oral diseases and other potentially severe complications, such as functional decline.

## Methods

Oral hygiene care strategy as follows: (1) organization of study groups for nurses and revisions to clinical operating procedures, (2) diversified oral care activities, (3) creation of a supportive environment and enhancement of peer support and health education of family members, and (4) revisions to the incentive method based on the current implementation status.

## Keywords

chronic psychiatric inpatients; oral hygiene care; periodontal screening index; Two-year follow-up

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## Results

The periodontal screening index (PSI) decreased from 94.4% to 38.9% for a 55.5% level of improvement. Further, dental coverage increased from 33% to 98% for a 65% level of improvement.



## Conclusions

The completeness of oral hygiene practices in patients was enhanced. Effectively reducing medical and intangible costs arising from the emergency response of nursing personnel. This activity increased the completeness of oral hygiene practices and decreased patients' medical costs.



## Relation to HPH Task Force

The provision of routine oral hygiene care to chronic psychiatric inpatients is of great significance. Health services for vulnerable patients are improved.