

Share Practical Experience - Promotion of Dental Smoking Cessation Services in Taiwan

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More than 6 million people around the world die from tobacco every year. Restricting tobacco use is the most effective way to save lives and improve overall well-being. Tobacco contains more than 7,000 harmful chemicals, including 70 known carcinogens that can cause damage to human organs and directly or indirectly cause cancer. Cancer has been among the top ten causes of death in Taiwan for more than 40 years; among them, oral cancer ranks among the top ten cancer deaths, killing more than 3,000 people every year.

In 2013, Taiwan Dental Associations undertook the "Dentists Participation in Smoking Cessation Service Training Program" undertaken by the National Health Service of the Ministry of Health and Welfare to train smoking cessation clinical service manpower, so that trained doctors can prescribe drugs for smoking cessation treatment and provide health education consultation. Knowledgeable; and since 2014, it has helped encourage dentists to invest in clinical smoking cessation services.

Dentists are the frontline medical personnel for patients' oral health. They are in a good position

to identify smoking patients and provide effective prevention of tobacco use and smoking cessation. Dental treatment courses can be matched with the smoking cessation treatment service cycle, which makes it easier to track and adjust in real time, and has high patient acceptance.

In addition to encouraging dentists to invest in clinical smoking cessation services, Taiwan Dental Associations also promotes cooperation between dental clinics and smoking cessation hotline service centers. If smokers are found, they will provide referral cards with the telephone number of the smoking cessation hotline service center (0800-636363). Physicians provide verbal explanations and advice to quit smoking; a cooperative network has also been established with the Federation of Taiwan Pharmacists Association. In compliance with the provisions of the domestic smoking cessation service subsidy program, dentists will issue prescriptions for smoking cessation drugs that cannot be directly prescribed by dentists, patients go to nearby community pharmacies to collect medicines, and pharmacists can also provide smoking cessation education in addition



to administering medicines to provide more complete smoking cessation services.

Since smoking has a wide range of harms to the body: oral disease, lung disease, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, sexual

dysfunction, etc., dentists serving in hospitals can work closely with medical staff in other departments (western medicine, pharmacists, hygienists and personal therapists, etc.) form a cross-disciplinary team to jointly implement smoking cessation services.