

Role of Dentist in Detection and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

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Background: Child abuse and neglect is a very serious problem that has long consequences for those involved and for society in general. Dental professionals are in an exceptional position to identify and report these cases. Statistics of previous studies revealed that only one percent of dentists reported suspected cases.

Aims of lecture are to help dentists to learn about their ethical responsibilities and legal obligation toward child abuse cases and how to detect & report them.

Methods: This lecture will demonstrate types & consequecnces of child abuse & neglect & the prevelence worldwide. In addition, ethical and legal concerns of different health care organizations related to dentists' reporting suspected cases . Oral symptoms of child abuse and neglect will be discussed and classified according to the type: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect. Physical abuse may results; lacerations of tongue, oral mucosa, palate, gingiva alveolar mucosa or frenum; fractured, displaced, or avulsed teeth; facial bone and jaw fractures; burns; or other injuries. Sexual abuse may represents significant oral manifestations as oral and perioral gonorrhea, unexplained erythema or petechiae of the palate, particularly at the junction of the hard and soft palate, pseudomembranus and condylomatous lesions of lips, tongue, palate and nose-pharynx. Dental neglect is detected by untreated early Childhood Caries, odontogenous infection or pain, periodontal disease.

Conclusion: Child abuse and neglect can be prevented by increase dentist's awareness about their roles of reporting these cases and strengthen their abilities to detect them in early stage

Biography

Marwa Sabry is an assistant lecturer at Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health Department, Kafr El-Sheikh University. She had received a Bachelor of Dentistry and M.S. in Dental Public Health from Alexandria University, M.S. in Hospital Administration from High Institution of Public Health, and Diploma in Total Quality Management from American University in Cairo. She is working in the field of Health Administration, Quality management and Public Health since 10 year ago. She plays an active role in community, she cooperate number of national and international associations to provide health educational programs & epidemiological surveys to raise people awareness.

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