Editorial

Handle with compassion



Caring elderly in a dental clinic could be challenging and testing for the dental professionals. It can even be frustrating when the patient does not seems to understand or follow clinicians instructions and express impatience and intolerance. In young patients, the dentist sees positive response to his efforts while with elderly patients no such progress may occur and all efforts made may turn out to be made without any fruitful returns.

Caring elderly persons demands a compassionate approach with patience and endurance. It is important to identify the source of problem and consider how to address it. In these elderly patients we may visualize our own parents who often find that a simple task have become difficult and who now need more help. We may view the elderly patients as picture of what we would be in the not so distant future. Someday, we might be as vulnerable, suffering pain or limitations that can make us irritable, forgetful or unresponsive to others. We forget this reality of life span and we expect them to be what we are currently and they used to be young, strong and independent.Infact health and ageing factors super imposed by social and environmental conditions makes elderly people more vulnerable, impatient and irritable.

In India we hold elderly population in high esteem and deal with great respect and love. Therefore as an astute dental care provider when dealing with elderly patients, we need to be a compassionate health care giver, a patient listener delivering our best that they need and deserve and some day we aspire to receive.

Medical science during past few decades have 'added years to life'. Could we, as dedicated oral health care provider add life to the years by extending much needed effective quality care to the elderly patients with compassion and love.

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