

An Insight in to Dentistry

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In today's world where external appearance has a great impact, dentistry plays a very important role. With increasing change in the lifestyle and economy, more people are becoming addicted to habits like smoking, drug and alcohol abuse influenced by affluent society, it is becoming difficult to contain the oral diseases affecting the general population at large. Dentistry is the branch of medicine that deals with the study, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral cavity, the maxillofacial area and the adjacent and associated structures, and their impact on the human body. The word "dentistry" is derived from the Latin word dens meaning "tooth". This area of personal health has evolved into a strictly formalized discipline involving very comprehensive attention to the anatomy, development and diseases of the teeth, jaw and mouth. Oral diseases affect our most basic human needs beyond just eating. Social communication can be greatly impacted by the ability to smile, and speech may also become difficult to produce and to understand. Oral health might also influence the overall health of the body. Bacteria have been shown to go from the mouth to the heart through the bloodstream. The mouth is also a good indicator of the condition of the body as a whole. Cosmetic dentistry is gaining popularity, it can give anyone a perfect smile, change the facial profile to make u look aesthetic, provide psychological satisfaction to the patient at the same time.

Branches in dentistry: There are following branches in dentistry namely

- Prosthodontics
- Periodontics
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics
- Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics
- Oral Pathology & Microbiology
- Community Dentistry
- Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
- Oral Medicine Diagnosis and Radiology

Pedodontics: This is the branch that deals with infants, children and young teens and manages problems of this group of people. They include preventive treatments, oral exams and repair of any defective teeth.

Periodontics: This is the branches that focus on the prevention and treatment of gum disease and some surgeries related to prevention of bone loss and some aesthetic surgeries.

Orthodontics: This is the branch that focuses on the proper alignment of teeth and treats diffent categories of malocclusiuons.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeon: This is the branch that deals with extraction of teeth and accidental injuries or fractures of the jaw bones.

Endodontics: This is the branch that deals with dental caries, and some conditions or problems occurring beneath the tooth enamel in the pulp, blood vessels and nerves of the teeth.

Prosthodontics: This is the branch that deals with replacement

of missing teeth, fabrication of artificial substitutes for jaw bones and fabrication of maxillofacial prosthesis.

Oral Pathology: This is the branch that deals with the microscopic and histological examinations of the various pathologies altering and affecting all the oral structures (teeth, lips, cheeks, jaw bones) as well as parts of the face and neck.

Oral Medicine and Diagnosis: This is the branch that deals with the diagnosis and medicinal treatment of pathologies affecting the oral and maxillofacial region, it also involves the diagnosis and follow-up of premalignant lesions of the oral cavity, like leukoplakia, erythroplakia and diagnosis and treatment of different types of neuralgias.

Community Dentistry: Defined as the branch of dentistry which is practised in relation to population and group, which derives from epidemiology an awareness of services required to organize the application of these services for the benefit of the population.

Conclusion

Dentistry deals with various branches and each branch have advantages though limitations as well. Through advance procedures and latest techniques, one can reduce the chances of complications. Adapting to technique sensitive procedures and doing quality work will strengthen the relationship between dentist and patient.

Emphasis should be more on research oriented work so that the life threating oral diseases can be prevented and treated at the early stage. Sometimes Special cases require expertise help though in general a dentist is self capable of handling cases.

Dentistry has lot of scope, and being a multidisciplinary branch, specialization in various branches adds to new avenues. Sometimes medical ailments too require attention of a dentist as various oral diseases are the cause of many medical problems.

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