

COMPARISON OF STUDENTS' AND DENTISTS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE IMPACT SYSTEMIC DISEASES HAVE ON THE DENTAL EXTRACTION PROCEDURE

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INTRODUCTION

Students are confident to perform dental extraction procedures (DEP) on healthy patients, but they do not feel prepared to treat patients with systemic diseases (SD). It is crucial to be aware of SD while performing invasive procedures as postoperative bleeding, delayed wound healing and hypoglycemic shock are some of the most common complications encountered in some patients.

METHODS

A survey was presented to a voluntary response sample of 4th year and 5th year Lithuanian dentistry students and dental practitioners. Type of study: cross-sectional survey research.

Statistical data analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 23. The threshold for statistical significance was set at $p \leq 0.05$. Student's t, Shapiro – Wilk tests, Bonferroni adjustment, Kolmogorov-Smirnov criteria were used for data analysis. Theoretical questions' scores were evaluated using the following formula:

$$ts = \max\left(0, \left(\left(\frac{C}{CA}\right) - \left(\frac{I}{PA - 1}\right)\right)\right)$$

ts - true score; CA- all possible correct answers;
max - function returning the maximum given value;
I - incorrect answers selected;
C - correct answers selected; PA – all possible answers.

CONCLUSIONS

5th year students' knowledge about some systemic diseases impact on DEP was significantly better than 4th year students', while the knowledge of dentists was similar regardless of the years of practice. Further interest in surgical interventions contributes to ones' better knowledge. The study revealed a great need for practical guidelines, which could be useful for reviewing study programs across Lithuanian dental schools.

AIM

The aim of the study was to assess and compare the knowledge of dental students and practitioners of the influence systemic diseases have on dental extraction procedures, determine factors leading to one's better knowledge and assess the need for practical guidelines.

RESULTS

The knowledge of the 5th year students on the influence of hypertension and diabetes on DEP was significantly better than 4th year students' ($p=0.0002$).

Students' knowledge of the influence of diabetes on DEP was significantly better than dentists' ($p=0.0372$). The knowledge of dentists about the influence of hypertension on DEP was significantly better than students' ($p = 0.041$).

The knowledge of dentists with 0-5 years of experience was significantly better than those with 16-20 years of experience ($p=0.001$).

Students' knowledge was found to be better than dentists' who have graduated before 2005 ($p=0.04$).

The knowledge of students and dentists who indicated further interest in oral surgery by attending conferences, training courses or by reading scientific literature at least once a year was significantly better ($p<0,05$).

96% of respondents claimed the need for practical guidelines on this topic.