



7.2.1 Describe two Institutional Best Practices as per the NAAC format provided in the Manual

Best practice-1

Title of Practice: WHEEL CHAIR DENTISTRY

Objectives of practice

- To provide access to dental treatment for physically challenged patients with minimal interruption.
- To reduce the hassle that comes with the transfer of patients from wheelchair to dental chair
- To provide quality dental treatment for wheelchair-bound patients.
- To alleviate apprehension and provide comfort to wheelchair-bound patients during dental procedures.

The Context

Patients with physical disabilities generally have poor oral health and experience more untreated dental problems than the rest of the population. The ability to facilitate quality dental services as well as to counteract challenges faced by that population is of utmost importance when patients approach a dental clinic in a wheelchair.

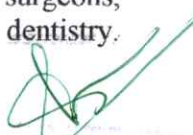
When the wheelchair-bound patient is moved to a standard dental chair, they often face difficulty in maintaining a stable position for long stretches of time. Patients might feel vulnerable when they are removed from the wheelchair. Eliminating this scenario is important to provide a sense of comfort and security to the patient before a dental procedure. Considering the space availability and financial viability most dental clinics are set up on the first floor which makes access to dental care even more difficult for physically challenged patients. The concept behind the "Modified dental chair for wheelchair bound patients" is to reduce the challenges of wheelchair bound patients during the arduous transfer from wheelchair to traditional dental chair while also providing easy access to quality dental treatment.

The Practice

The practice of wheelchair dentistry has been implemented with the assistance of ALL KERALA WHEEL CHAIR RIGHTS FEDERATION, Malappuram. The requirements and modifications needed to the dental chair prototype was discussed with president of ALL KERALA WHEEL CHAIR RIGHTS FEDERATION, Malappuram branch in the initial phase. A WhatsApp group has been created with committee heads of 7 taluks in Malappuram district which includes President and Secretary. The implementation of modified dental chair for wheel chair bound patients has been publicized to the members of wheel chair association through committee heads in each Taluk through WhatsApp groups and through Asha workers. A survey has been conducted through Asha workers to evaluate the number of patients requiring dental treatment. From the survey conducted it was evident that most of them were reluctant to approach a dental hospital because of the constraints faced by them in dental clinics and time required for examination and treatment. First visit of patient has been prioritized with the need of patient as informed by committee heads.

A training course has been done for the members of the dental team, including dental surgeons, nursing staff, and clinic assistants, to expand their knowledge and skills in special care dentistry.




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Experience of special care dentistry by undergraduate students help them to feel more confident and able to provide dentistry to patients with disabilities in general practise. The treatment is done on an appointment basis to reduce the waiting time. It is managed by the team at Comprehensive Dental Clinic. The team consists of a dentist, a dental assistant, and nursing staff to practise four-handed dentistry.

Evidence of success

Treatment has been carried out for an average of five patients per month. Feedback has been collected from the patients. It was evident from the feedback that modified dental chair helps wheel chair bound patients to overcome the barriers for approaching a dentist. Treatment time has reduced considerably.

Problems encountered and resources required

The safety of prototype was tested by able-bodied people in the initial phase. The chair was designed in such a way that it can support weight up to 150kgs. The design was constructed from the inputs given by wheel chair bound patients. The challenges in design were obese nature of the patients due to limited mobility, need for leg support while reclining, need for a tilt table in wheel chair to move the upper body alone instead of reclining the wheel chair as a whole and safety of patients. Modifications were done by collaborating with expert team from MES Engineering College. The initial fitting of the wheel chair to the dental chair prototype requires manpower. Three attendants are employed for wheel chair maintenance and technical assistance, as required for transporting wheel chairs to the dental chair in the Department of Oral medicine and Radiology. Standing working position of the dentist for long period of time can be fatiguing. Four-handed dentistry is adopted to minimise strain of the dentist and to avoid prolonged treatment time.



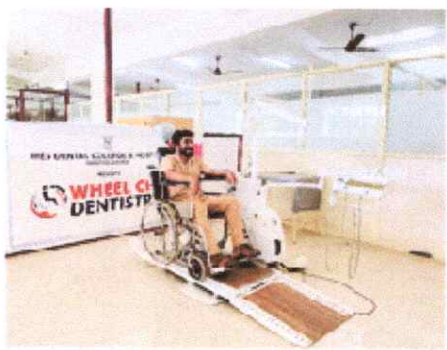
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**ചക്രക്കസേരയിലിരുന്ന് ദന്ത ചികിത്സ:
 പുതിയ സംവിധാനമൊരുക്കി
 എംഇഎസ് ഡെന്റൽ കോളജ്**

പെരിന്തൽമണ്ണ • ചക്രക്കസേരയിൽ കഴിയുന്നവർക്ക് അതിൽ നിന്നിറങ്ങാതെ ദന്തചികിത്സ നടത്തുന്നതിന് സൗകര്യമൊരുക്കി പെരിന്തൽമണ്ണ എംഇഎസ് ഡെന്റൽ കോളജ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളും അധ്യാപകരും ഇത്തരം രോഗികൾക്ക് അവർ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ചക്രക്കസേരയോടെ പല്ലി പരിശോധനയ്ക്കുള്ള കസേരയിലേക്ക് കയറാവുന്ന വിധമാണ് സംവിധാനമെന്ന് ഭാരവാഹികളായ കോളജ് കൺവീനർ കെ.കെ.കൃഷ്ണമി മോയ്തീസ്, ഡപ്യൂട്ടി റജിസ്ട്രാർ ഡോ.ഫിരോസ് മുഹമ്മദ്, ഡോ.റാഷ്മി, ഓൾ കൗൺസിലർ റെന്റൽ ഹെൽത്ത് സെന്റർ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് സൂപ്പർവൈസർ അറിയിച്ചു.

ആശുപത്രിയിൽ സിമിറമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനു പുറമെ അത് കൊണ്ടുപോയി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനുമായി 2 തരം പരിശോധനാ കസേരകളാണ് വികസിപ്പിച്ചെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇവ സർക്കാർ സംവിധാനങ്ങളിൽ സൗജന്യമായി തയ്യാറാക്കി നൽകുന്നതിന്റെ സാധ്യത പരിശോധിക്കുമെന്ന് ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവർ അറിയിച്ചു. രോഗികൾക്ക് ഇതുവരെ ചക്രക്കസേരയിൽ നിന്ന് പല്ലി പരിശോധനാ കസേരയിലേക്ക് ഇരിക്കാൻ ഏറെ പ്രയാസപ്പെടണമായിരുന്നു. ഈ പ്രയാസങ്ങൾ തിരിച്ചറിയണമെന്ന് പുതിയ ആശുപത്രി അധികൃതർ അറിയിച്ചു. എംഇഎസ് സംസ്ഥാന പ്രസിഡന്റ് ഡോ. ഫസൽ ഗഫൂർ റിട്ടയർ ചെയ്ത ഡെന്റിസ്റ്റി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ഡോ. അബ്ദുൽ ഷമ്മി, വൈസ് പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ഡോ. കെ.എ.സമീർ തുടങ്ങിയവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു.



Wheel chair dental clinic



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