

## Function of General Dentists Regarding Preventive Dentistry Services in Children and Adolescents

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In recent years, we have witnessed that the pattern of control and dealing with dental caries has shifted towards preventive treatments rather than focusing merely on the treatment. Whereas prevention of dental caries is one of the primary duties of general dentists, their performance assessment and attitude towards preventive services is being planned and managed for this purposes.

It is necessary to explain that the academic training of dentists plays a decisive role in this regard. In this regard, research in the UK has shown that general dentists have deficiencies in preventive measures [1].

In Finland, a study which was based on the prevention of caries concept among newly graduated dental students showed that almost all the participants advised their patients to brush, use fluoride-containing toothpaste, and dental floss every day. Furthermore, these young dentists noticed it was necessary to have a clinical guideline to increase their competence [2]. On the other hand, the high statistics responded to in this study may be due to the fact that the participants were recent graduates and updated. Another contributing factor to these statistics is the existence of different related guidelines in Scandinavia [3].

Teaching oral health should be repeated more than one session because otherwise, it would not be possible to improve the oral health of people, especially children and adolescents. Oral health education should be done in a way that is easy to learn and less harmful, particularly in children. The results of a systematic review showed that oral health education by specialists in this field, in the form of chair side, was more useful than other methods [4].

Nowadays, in the top universities of the world, efforts are being made to pay more attention to preventive dental education and its educational evaluation. In the last few decades, the importance of preventative discussion has been to the extent that in the United States, nearly all dental schools in the country have had theoretical and practical discussions related to dental caries management in their program [5].

Another important issue in the provision of preventive dental services is the degree to which dentists are willing to participate and provide such services. In a study in the USA, dentists' enthusiasm for providing such services to young children was examined. The results revealed that pediatric dentists were more willing to provide preventive services to children younger than two years of age. It is noteworthy that general dentists have also provided good cooperation in the consulting services in this field [6].

Overall, the practice and attitude of the majority of general dentists regarding preventive dentistry services were appropriate, but unfortunately, a small percentage of general dentist colleagues merely follow the treatment approach; they don't pay attention to the

importance of preventive dentistry. Needless to say, the level of dental education received during that period can have a significant impact on how preventive dental care is offered to children.

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