Patients' Attitudes Toward Screening for Medical Conditions in a Dental Setting

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Previous studies demonstrated the efficacy of chairside medical screening by dentists to identify patients who are at increased risk for developing cardiovascular associated events and the favorable attitude of dentists toward chairside medical screening. This study assessed patient attitudes toward chairside medical screening in a dental setting. A self administered questionnaire of eight five-point response scale questions was given to a convenience sample of adult patients attending a dental school clinic and two private practice settings. Statistical analysis was used to compare responses between study groups.

Regardless of setting, the majority of respondents was willing to have a dentist conduct screening for heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, human immunodeficiency virus infection, and hepatitis infection (55-90 percent); discuss results immediately (79 percent and 89 percent); provide oral fluids, finger-stick blood, blood pressure measurements, and height and weight (60-94 percent); and pay up to $20 (50-67 percent). Respondents reported that their opinion of the dentist would improve regarding the dentist's professionalism, knowledge, competence, and compassion (48-77 percent). The fact that the test was not done by a physician was ranked as the least important potential barrier. All respondents expressed a favorable attitude toward chairside screening. The priority rankings within an item were similar for both groups. Acceptance by patients of chairside medical screening in a dental setting is a critical element for successful implementation of this strategy.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to extend our appreciation for 2 of our employees that have recently celebrated anniversaries with our office. Virginia recently celebrated 11 years with our office. Christina recently celebrated 2 years. We appreciate them and the level of care that they give our patients.

IS YOUR PATIENT A DENTAL IMPLANT CANDIDATE?

As you already know, dental implants are a great option to propose to your patient for tooth replacement. If your patient is interested in discussing this as an option, please note on your referral or let us know when you call to schedule them.