Special Patient Care

Theory and Practice of Pediatric Dentistry

Lecture Overview

- Medically compromised
- Types
- Medical History and Consults
- Medications
- Multidisciplinary Approach
- Office Designs
- Dealing w/ Parents
- Dental Implications
- Restraints

Introduction

- Children w/ serious medical and developmental problems often survive for prolonged periods of time.
- Medically compromised includes -
  - Congenital diseases
  - Acquired diseases
  - Developmental diseases
- Know all aspects of the disease, including medications.
- Important for the safety of the patient.
Types of Special Patients

- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Coagulation Disorders
- Respiratory Disorders
- Renal and Hepatic Disorders
- Convulsive Disorders
- Endocrine Disorders
- Chemotherapy and Radiation
- Immune Deficiency Disorders
- Developmentally Compromised
- Psychobehavioral Disorders
- Deafness
- Blindness

Medical History

- Obtain a good medical history.
- Get in touch with the child pediatrician and any other specialist.
- Assess need for premedication.
- Assess need to alter the current medication prior to dental Tx.

Medical Consults

- Whenever planning on treating a medically compromised child, always get a medical consult prior to treating the child.
- Keep a copy of the returned medical consult in the patient's chart.
- Ask and Inform
  - Are there any concerns, contraindications and premedications required?
  - What you are planning on doing and what type of anesthesia you plan on using
  - Ask for clearance in writing
Medications

- Always be aware of all medications the child is taking.
- Know the medications ADR and interactions especially with local anesthesia.
- Keep an updated PDR or similar book in your office.
- Keep a copy of the information in the chart for future reference.

Multidisciplinary Approach

- Best form of management for Special Care patients.
- Sometimes the dentist can help evaluate the extra-oral and intra-oral findings in the identification of syndromes.

Dental Office modification

- Barrier free facilities to accommodate wheel chairs etc.
- Accessible dental operatory floor plans and movable equipment.
- Handicapped entrances and bathrooms.
Dealing with Parents of Special Care Patients
- Flexibility w/ scheduling etc.
- Compassion
- Over-protectiveness
- Rejection and Guilt
- Overindulgence
- Education

Dental Implications
- Dental visit
  - Don’t hesitate to develop a rapport w/ the child
  - May require the parent to assist taking radiographs
  - May need to improvise!

Dental Implications
- Preventive Dentistry
  - Most desirable way of ensuring good dental health especially in the medically compromised child.
  - Formulate an individual program and educate the parent and patient if possible.
  - May need to customize the handles etc for the patient.
  - Constantly reinforce the proper brushing technique, use of restraints and positioning of the child.
Dental Implications

• Diet and Nutrition
  • Proper diet
  • Make recommendations on an individual basis after consulting with the child’s dietician or MD

• Fluoride Exposure
  • Judicious use of topical and systemic if necessary
  • Weigh pros and cons of caries versus mild enamel mottling

• Preventive Restorations
  • Sealants whenever indicated
  • Placing Amalgams/filled resins in certain cases
  • SSC in some cases

• Recall Visits
  • May need to recall every 2, 3, 4 or 6 months depending on the child’s needs.
  • Management during dental treatment
    • Additional time w/ child and parent
    • May need to use restraints
    • May need sedation or GA
Restraints
- Partial or complete immobilization
- Consent
  - You must obtain consent from the parent in writing that they have their permission to use the restraints
- Types -
  - Mouth
  - Body
  - Extremities
  - Head

Mouth Restraints
- Molt’s mouth prop
- Rubber bite blocks
- Padded and wrapped tongue blades
- Caution
  - Lip and palate lacerations
  - Tooth luxations

Body Restraints
- Papoose Board
- Triangular sheet
- Pedi-wrap
- Beanbag dental chair inserts
- Safety belts
- Extra assistant
- Parent
- Caution - interferences with medical devices

Papoose Board
Extremity Restraints
- Posey straps
- Velcro straps
- Towel and tape
- Parent
- Extra assistant
- Caution - watch for deformed bones etc.

Head Restraints
- Forearm-body support
- Head positioner
- Plastic bowl
- Extra assistant
- Parent

Summary
- Treating the Special Care patient requires complete familiarity not only with the child’s condition, the medications the child is on and their interactions as well.
- A medical consult should be obtained if necessary.
- The parents of these children can show varying emotions and you need to be aware of them when dealing with them.
- Use of restraints may be necessary, caution must be exercised in their use after getting the necessary consent from the parent.