Annual Conference
Oral Health for Older Adults
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My dentist says bacon and soda works just as good as toothpaste!

That’s "baking soda".
1 in 4 older Americans are edentulous.

70% of older Americans have periodontal disease.

Older Americans with the poorest oral health:
- Economically disadvantaged, lack insurance, racial/ethnic minorities
- Disabled, homebound, or institutionalized.

Many older Americans do not have dental insurance.

25% of adults 60 years and older no longer have natural teeth, but this varies by State: West Virginia = 42%, California 13%
Limited Access to Care

- Only 46% of elders visit the dentist!
  - 70% lack dental insurance
    - Medicare does not cover preventive & outpatient dental treatment
    - Medicaid dental coverage varies by state but is limited and often does not cover routine preventive services – OHIO!!
  - Poverty
  - Limited mobility and transportation
  - Disability
  - Institutionalization
  - Limited evidence–based care guidelines
  - Few specialized geriatric dentists
Care Alliance Health Center
Care Alliance Health Center

- Federally qualified health center
- Comprehensive medical care, dental care, behavioral health, pharmacy
- Dental program was awarded ODA Access to Care Grant
- Oral Cancer Screenings, oral health education
- Dental mobile equipment – cleanings and other preventative procedures
- Accept Medicaid, private insurance
- Sliding fee scale – Medicare patients
LifeLong Smiles Program – CWRU
Life Long Smiles Program—CWRU

- Geriatric Mobile Dental Van Program
- Adult day centers, nursing homes
- Provide comprehensive dental care – exams, x rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, denture and partials
- Mandatory clinical rotation for 4th year dental students – interdisciplinary experiences
The mouth is connected to the body.
Oral health should be a priority to maintain overall optimal health.
Have your patients/clients see a dentist at least twice a year to prevent bigger oral health issues.
Losing teeth should not be assumed as one ages!
Oral hygiene should be a priority with daily grooming.
Questions??

I can't read your handwriting, doctor. Does our patient have plaque or the plague?