



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

 **Care Alliance**
Health Center
Care for you. Care for me. Care for all.



o4a Annual Conference Oral Health for Older Adults October 30, 2019

Suparna Argekar Mahalaha DDS, MPH
Chief Dental Officer- Care Alliance Health Center
Assistant Professor- CWRU School of Dental Medicine
Cleveland, Ohio / saa6@case.edu

MY DENTIST SAYS
BACON AND SODA
WORKS JUST AS GOOD
AS TOOTHPASTE!

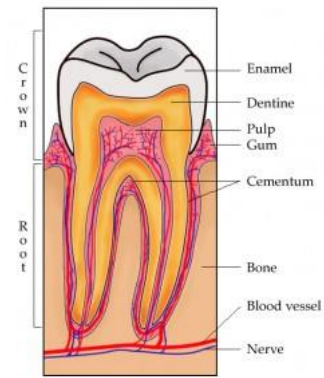
THAT'S
"BAKING SODA".



© 2000 by Randy Glasbergen. www.glasbergen.com

Older Adult Oral Health

- ▶ 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%



What's Hot. Oral Health: An Essential Element of Healthy Aging. 2017. GSA.


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



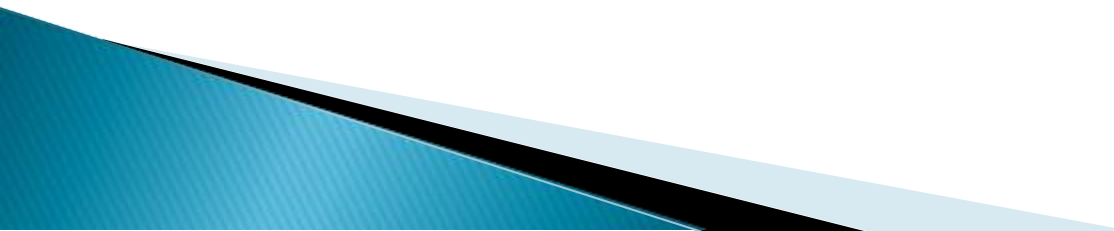
Care Alliance Health Center

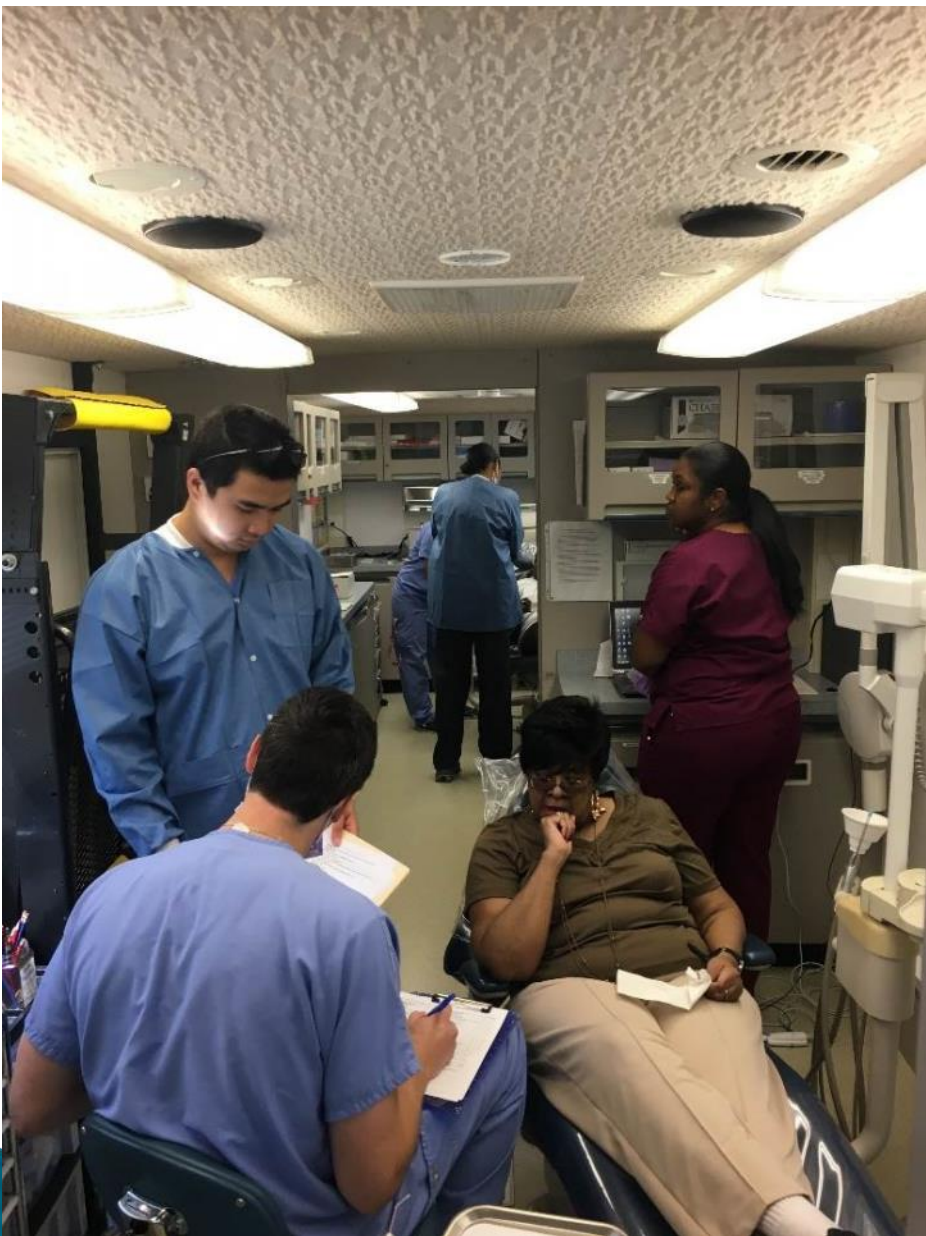
- ▶ Federally qualified health center
 - ▶ Comprehensive medical care, dental care, behavioral health, pharmacy
 - ▶ Dental program was awarded ODA Access to Care Grant
 - ▶ Oral Cancer Screenings, oral health education
 - ▶ Dental mobile equipment – cleanings and other preventative procedures
 - ▶ Accept 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
- 





Take Home Messages

- ▶ 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??

© 2000 by Randy Glasbergen. www.glasbergen.com

I CAN'T READ YOUR HANDWRITING, DOCTOR.
DOES OUR PATIENT HAVE PLAQUE
OR THE PLAGUE?

