

UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY OF TÎRGU MUREŞ DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Abstract of the PhD Thesis

Studies Regarding the Organization and Activity of Emergency Dental Units and Emergency Dental Affections

PhD Student: Szabó (Dörner) Kinga

Scientific coordinator: Prof. univ. dr. Székely Melinda

Nowadays, dental medicine has become an increasingly more difficult task to perform, since one has to be always up to date with newly developing treatment procedures. As a result, the investigation of the patient has to be done thoroughly and to be well documented, after which a very complex, multidisciplinary and correct treatment should be conducted. When establishing the therapeutic choice in the dental practice, the dentist will have to take two main aspects into account: the magnitude of the dental intervention and potentially associated system pathology and its compensation level, which can allow or prevent safe dental therapy.

Tooth pain, negligence, and fear of interventions are commonly seen among the Romanian population. Often these are the main causes for avoiding and postponing necessary dental treatments, with serious consequences on the teeth state of the individual and the population as a whole. The definition of 'dental emergency' includes acute dental pain caused by caries, deep or defective restorations, or trauma. Dental emergencies include reversible and irreversible pulpitis, interappointment endodontic emergencies, dental trauma, periapical and periodontal abscess, pericoronitis and cracked tooth syndrome. The dense nerve network of the head and neck region is primarily responsible for the severity and intensity of the pain, which causes stress for both the patient and the clinician and requires an immediate diagnosis and accurate treatment. When establishing the therapeutic choice in the dental practice, the dentist will have to take two main aspects into account.

The doctoral thesis consist of two main parts. The **general part** of the thesis treats in five chapters the oral health financing system in Romania, the methodology of

examination and diagnosis used in dental emergency, which is within the competence of emergency medical practices, patient behavior in emergency situations and emergency situations that may occur in the Dental Office and emergency therapeutic means.

The second part referred as **personal contributions** is formed of nine chapters.

The first two chapters present the hypothesis objectives and the general research methodology. The next four chapters contain studies in the field of the thesis.

Due to the multiple requests in Tîrgu Mureș, a Dental Office was established in 01.02.2012 within the Mures County Clinic Hospital, with permanent program and free services. The main purpose of these studies were the evaluation of patient flow attending the Dental Office as well as the different dental conditions that occurred, based on the analysis of non-personal data .

The first study from personal contributions addresses the variety of dental affections treated in the Dental Office over the first two years of its establishment. The second study is a comparative evaluation based on the collected data between a similar Dental Office, from Oradea, which was established in 20.12.2009. In the third study patient satisfaction levels were analysed through the medical service appreciation and the quality increase in these services according to the quality management system. The last study summarizes the activity of the studied Dental Office by evaluating the data evaluation gathered through six years, since its establishment.

Based on the obtained results we can state that the prevalence of patients who requested dental emergency treatment was high, increasing significantly in the first few years from its establishment. The variety of treatments and diagnostics of dental affections showed that these were not only due to diseases requiring emergency dental intervention but also to the economic crisis of the last ten years. This social aspect has led to increased usage of dental emergency services among the low-income population, who can not afford the high cost of dental treatments provided by the private dental practices in Mures County.

This thesis is the first study in the field of dental emergency, that assessed data gathered through such a long period, making a modest contribution.

Keywords: dental emergency, retrospective study, public dental care, dental affections