

10.53106/199457952022111606006

No Barriers in Oral Health Care for Older Adults: Experience at an Oral Healthcare Center for People with Special Needs

Hsin-Ming Chen^{1-4*}

¹Oral Health Care Center for Special Needs, ²Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Department of Dentistry, National Taiwan University Hospital, ³School of Dentistry, National Taiwan University, ⁴Taiwan Association for Disability and Oral Health

*Corresponding Author: Hsin-Ming Chen

Email: hsinmingchen@hotmail.com

Abstract

By 2025, Taiwan will have a super-aged society comprising approximately 4.7 million older adults. This increase is associated with an increased demand for oral health care. The Taiwanese Government has established a total of seven oral health-care centers for individuals with special needs. The first center was established in 2010; the centers are located at Northern, Central, Southern, and Eastern Taiwan. Older adults, particularly those with special needs, often experience several barriers when searching for dental service. Therefore, we developed a new model for providing dental service for these individuals. This article presents our 34-year clinical experience at an oral health-care center (National Taiwan University Hospital) for individuals with special needs. Our findings may help clinicians in the field of special care dentistry develop effective oral health programs for older adults with special needs.

Keywords: aged, oral health care, special care dentistry

長者看牙不麻煩— 特殊需求者牙科醫療服務示範中心分享

陳信銘^{1-4*}

¹臺大醫院特殊需求者牙科醫療服務示範中心、²牙科部口腔顎面外科、³臺灣大學牙醫專業學院、⁴臺灣特殊需求者口腔醫學會

*通訊作者：陳信銘
電子信箱：hsinmingchen@hotmail.com

所屬單位：臺大醫院特殊需求者牙科醫療服務示範中心
聯絡地址：100臺北市中正區中山南路8號4樓

摘要

臺灣即將在2025年邁入超高齡社會(Super-Aged Society)，屆時470萬人以上65歲長者口腔照護是一個重要的議題。我國政府自2010年起，在臺灣北、中、南、東區各醫學中心或醫院，共成立7所特殊需求者牙科醫療服務示範中心。本文將就高齡者牙科就醫問題，提出以「特殊需求者口腔醫學科牙醫醫療服務」作為最新的服務模式，並就高齡者常見口腔問題，分享「臺大醫院特殊需求者牙科醫療服務示範中心」基於34年的實務經驗，並提供建議，期能在未來的高齡社會挑戰中，協助特殊需求者牙科的醫療同業們，一起為高齡長者們提供完善的口腔醫療服務。

關鍵詞：高齡者、口腔健康照護、特殊需求者牙科