Introduction to Geriatric Dentistry
Geriatric Statistics

- In 2001, U.S. population was estimated to be 278 million. Approximately 12.6% of the population is 65 years or older. ²
- In 2015, U.S. population projection is 312 million. Approximately 14.7% of this population is 65 or older. ²
- In 2030, U.S. population will increase to 350 million. Approximately 20% of this projection will be 65 or older. ²
Classifications of Geriatric Dental Patients

Community indwelling
- Functions independently
- Has finances to handle dental treatment

Long term care facility
- Difficult access to dentists
- Difficulty in financing dental treatment
- Medicare does not cover dental
Geriatric Dental Concerns

Teeth Decay
- Increases between ages 55 - 75
- Elderly are keeping teeth longer

Combination of constant assault by everyday activities such as bruxism, chewing, and difficulty in daily oral hygiene increases incidents of caries.¹

Treatment of decay indicated by extent of decay
- Fillings
- RCT
- Crowns
- Dentures
- Implants
Geriatric Dental Concerns: Cavities
Geriatric Dental Treatment: Fillings
Geriatric Dental Treatment: Root Canal
Geriatric Dental Treatment: Crowns
Geriatric Dental Treatment: Dentures
Geriatric Dental Treatment: Implants
Gingivae

**Gingivitis**: inflammation of gums

**Periodontitis**: loss of attachment of tooth root to bone

- Between the ages of 35-44, there is normally 22% loss of attachment
- Between the ages of 65-75, there is normally 55% loss of attachment
- For 75 years or older, three is normally 65% loss of attachment

Between Treatment of gums can vary from simple maintenance (cleanings) every six months to periodontal surgical procedures.
Periodontal Health
Periodontal Structures
Chronic periodontal infections from oral gram-negative bacteria are sources of endotoxins. Endotoxins gaining access to systemic circulation can illicit systemic inflammatory response.

Treatment of periodontitis infections shows metabolic management of poorly controlled diabetes mellitus.\textsuperscript{5} 

Maintaining good oral hygiene in LTC facilities show reduction of death and fever due to pneumonia.\textsuperscript{6} 

Periodontitis and oral infections can be related cerebrovascular diseases, myocardial diseases and stroke.\textsuperscript{4,5} 

Side effects of medications: Calcium channel blockers will cause gingival enlargement. 500 medications are related to reduction of salivary flow leading to higher caries incidence, difficulty in digestion and chewing.\textsuperscript{3}
In Conclusion ...

There are no “gero-dontologists”.

Mandatory Continuing Education for present clinicians
Dental school curriculum and rotations
Collaborations with other health care practitioners
Reference


