



# ORAL HEALTH CARE/ TREATMENT STRATEGY FOR GERIATRIC PATIENTS REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ORAL MEDICINE AND RADIOLOGY, TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL –A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL RECORDS

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## INTRODUCTION

Aging is an inevitable biological phenomenon. With advancement in the medical sciences, the average life expectancy has increased implying that older adults are a growing patient demographic for dentistry.

An increase of 34 million elderly persons was seen in 2021 and is expected to increase to 56 million by 2031. [1,2]

Geriatric dentistry or gerodontics is defined as the delivery of dental care to older adults involving the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of problems associated with normal aging and age-related diseases as part of an interdisciplinary team with other health care professionals.[3][4].

## CLASSIFICATION

- YOUNGEST OLD (65 – 74 YEARS)
- MIDDLE OLD (75 – 84 YEARS)
- OLDEST OLD (>85 YEARS)

## OBJECTIVES

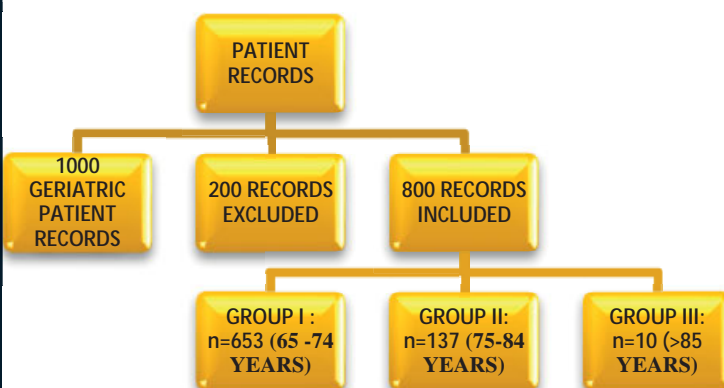
To find the prevalence of the various oral conditions among the geriatric patient population that visited our tertiary care institution at Tamil Nadu Government Dental College and Hospital.

The study was approved by the ethical committee.

Ref no: 5/IERB/2021

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

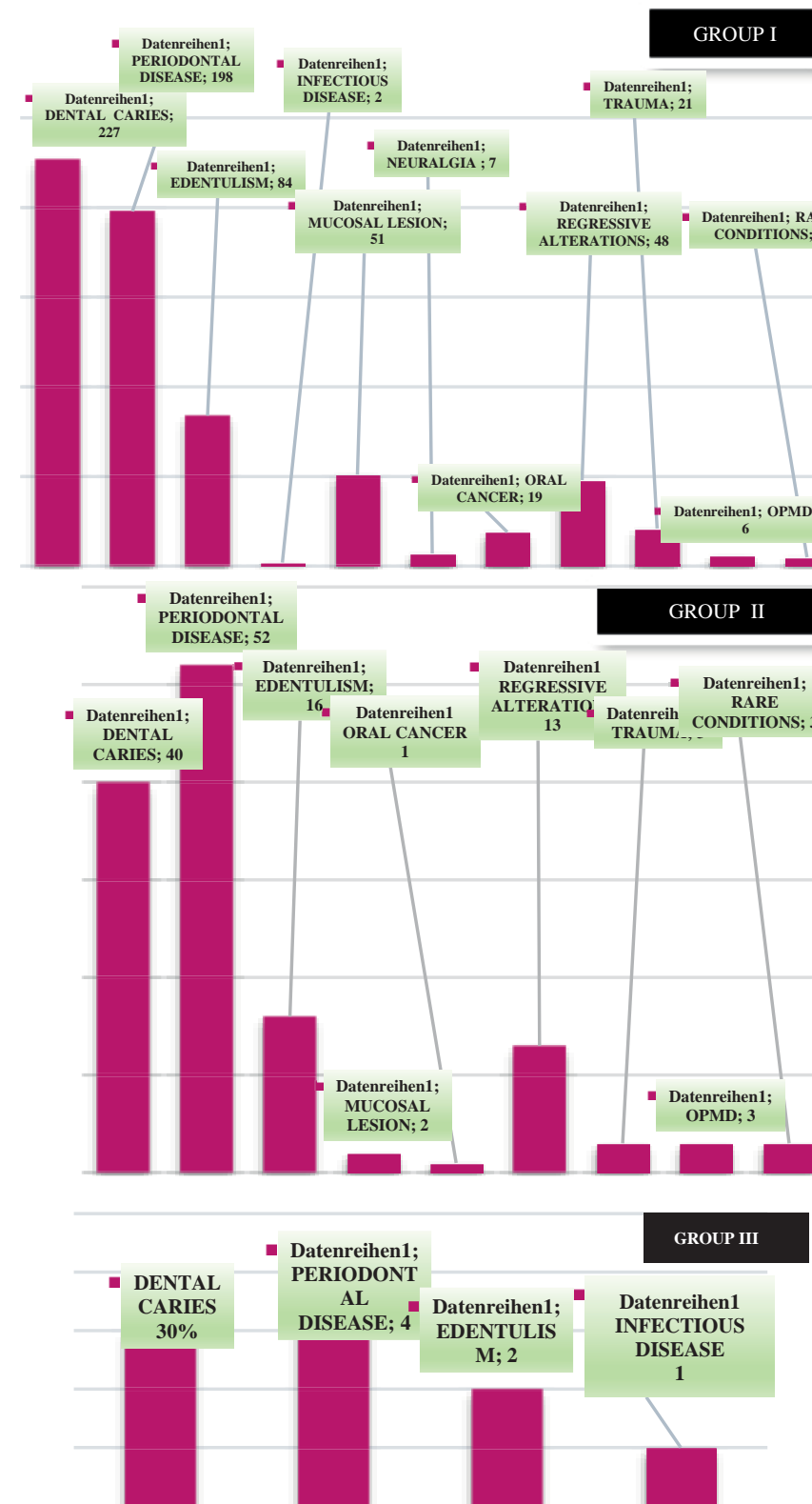
MARCH 2019 – MARCH 2020



Sex distribution: 67% males and 33% females

## RESULTS

### COMMON ORAL CONDITIONS IN THE GERIATRIC POPULATION



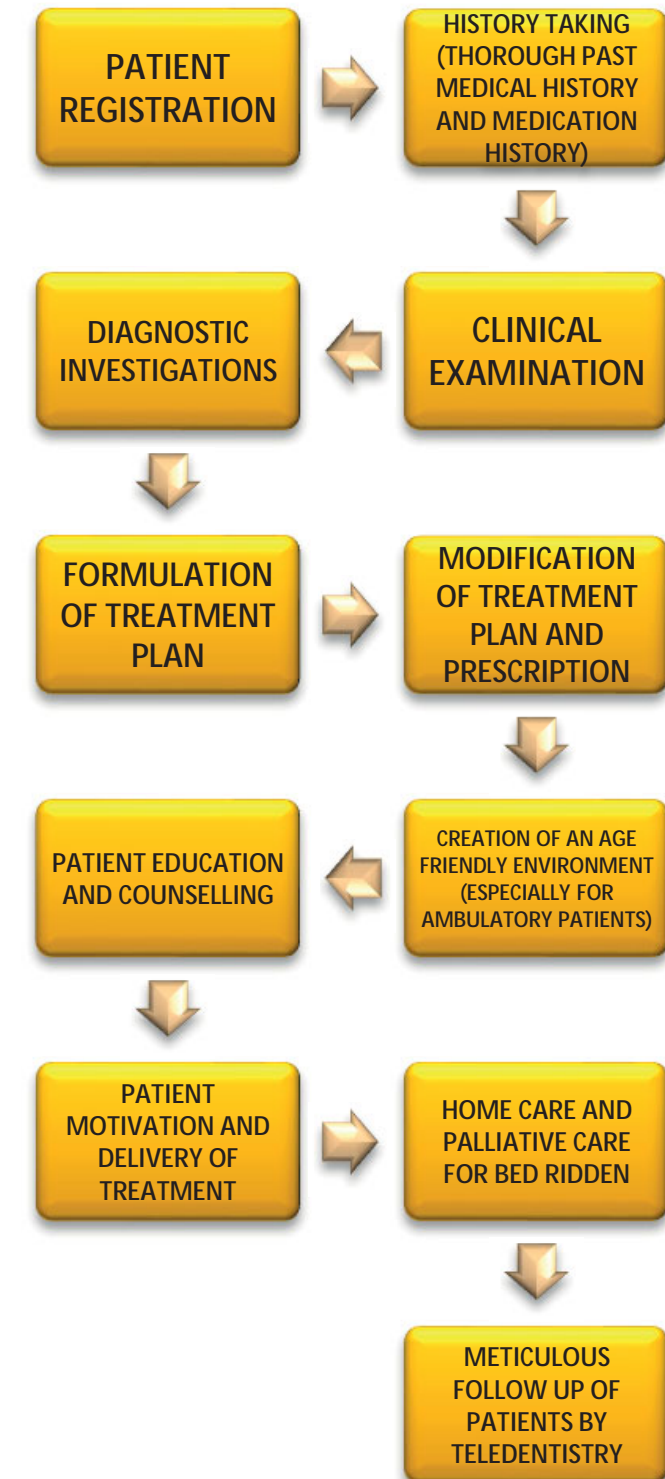
## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In this study, dental caries and periodontal disease are more prevalent among the geriatric patients. A poor oral status will eventually lead to eating problems, weight loss, and dehydration, aggravating the existing problems.

We arrived at an algorithm for the diagnosis, treatment, and referral of geriatric patients. This will facilitate the early diagnosis of lesions and disorders in geriatric patients and thereby improving their quality of life. The geriatric oral care should be a holistic approach to guarantee optimal oral health. This not only benefits the patient's oral health but also improves their overall physical and mental health. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated a National Programme for the health care of the elderly for geriatric care. A multidisciplinary approach should be followed to maintain a balance between oral and overall general health.

**ORAL HEALTH IS A MIRROR TO THE OVERALL GENERAL HEALTH OF THE GERIATRIC PATIENTS**

## ORAL HEALTH CARE STRATEGY ALGORITHM FOR GERIATRIC PATIENTS



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