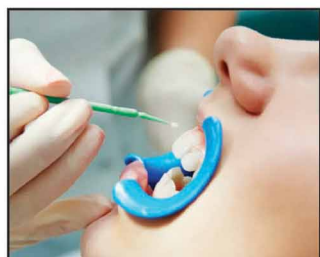


Essentials of

Public Health Dentistry



Charu Mohan Marya



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Introduction to Dentistry

CM Marya

INTRODUCTION

Dentistry has a long and fascinating history. From the earliest of times, humans have been plagued by dental disease. Many of the remarkable techniques in modern dentistry can be traced to the very earliest of times in every culture.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DENTISTRY

The earliest signs of dental surgery were between 3000 and 2500 BC and usually involved drilling out cavities or pulling teeth. It might be hard to imagine having your teeth drilled into without the comfort of shots and happy gas, but Egyptians by 1550 BC had prescriptions for dental pain and injuries. Interestingly, through all these years, there has never been any evidence in mummies or writings that mechanical or false teeth were ever used (**Fig. 1.1**). This has been somewhat of a surprise to scientists as we would expect ancient Egyptians who were rather lavish to replace missing front teeth with artificial teeth. Nevertheless, ancient Egyptians have also been credited with the invention of toothpaste. The world's oldest-known recipe for toothpaste comes from ancient Egypt in fact. When discovered, the Egyptian toothpaste formula from the 4th century AD caused a sensation among dentists who described it as an advanced recipe "ahead of its time"

Egyptians are believed to have started using a paste to clean their teeth around 5000 BC, before toothbrushes were invented. Ancient Greeks and Romans are known to have used toothpastes, and people in China and India first used toothpaste around 500 BC.



Fig. 1.1: Ebers papyrus talking about oral ailments and their remedies.

ETRUSCAN CIVILIZATION

The Etruscans were a group of agricultural people who evolved into an urban population of craftsmen, traders, and navigators who lived in a network of cities and dominated the area of the Mediterranean around Italy in the 8th and 9th centuries BC. The origins of the Etruscans are lost in prehistory, but the main hypotheses are that they are indigenous, probably stemming from the Villanovan culture, or that they are the result of invasion from the north or the Near East (**Fig. 1.2**).



Fig. 1.2: Prosthetic work of Etruscans.

ANCIENT GREEK DENTISTRY

Some years ago, a mummy was found with many devastating dental problems. Around 2,100 years ago, at a time when Egypt was ruled by a dynasty of Greek kings, a young wealthy man from Thebes was nearing the end of his life. Rather than age, he may have died from a basic sinus infection caused from a life of painful cavities. The man, whose name is unknown, was in his 20s or early 30s. A modern-day dentist would have a hard time dealing with the young man's severe condition and one can imagine that the ancient dentist must have felt overwhelmed.

DENTISTRY IN ANCIENT CHINA

The history of dentistry in China is closely aligned with the remarkable developments in Chinese medicine over at least six millennia.

Rudimentary dental extractions were performed as early as 6000 BC, when the first signs of adornment with human teeth were described. Around 2700 BC ancient Chinese

started using acupuncture to treat pain associated with tooth decay. Doctors in ancient China treated toothaches with arsenic about AD 1000. They are also noted for their development of using silver amalgam for filling teeth. The Chinese were particularly advanced in their observation of the oral cavity.

Dentistry is defined as the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment (non-surgical, surgical or related procedures) of diseases, disorders and/or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area and/or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body; provided by a dentist, within the scope of his/her education, training and experience, in accordance with the ethics of the profession and applicable law (As adopted by the 1997 American Dental Association House of Delegates). Over the years, dentistry has grown into many subspecialties approved by the Council on Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association. These include Dental Public Health, Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, and Prosthodontics.

Dentistry has evolved over time from a rather barbaric practice to a technologically advanced industry. Preventative maintenance, such as teeth cleanings help people avoid some of the serious problems that people of the past were faced with when it came to teeth.

Dentistry in India

Dr Rafidin Ahmed is considered as Father of Indian Dentistry. He founded **India's first Dental College in Calcutta in 1928**. In India the progress of dentistry into an advanced science is a truly remarkable one. In India, modern dental education was started during the British colonial rule. According to DCI, as on date 23 July 2020 there are 313 dental colleges among them 268 are having MDS programs in their institute.

Essentials of Public Health Dentistry

Salient Features

- Contributions by international and national senior faculty members of the respective fields
- Simplicity of presentation
- Newer concepts, guidelines and definitions

Extensive coverage of topics, especially:

- National Oral Health Policy
- Jurisprudence
- Biostatistics—all test of significance explained with rational use
- Oral Health Promotion
- Forensic Odontology
- Ergonomics in Dentistry
- Infection Control
- Dental Trauma
- Comprehensive Dentistry
- Wasting Diseases of Teeth
- Must know information in boxes
- Long and short questions given at the end of each chapters
- Includes national and international perspectives on dental diseases.

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