

Living With Dentures

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DHN 461 Program Report



Vision & Mission Statement

Our vision is to extend our passion of helping the community by partnering with River Retirement to meet their current oral health needs. Riverview's director communicated the need for education regarding dentures and denture care as oral appliances are commonly worn among residents. Our mission is to help these individuals manage life with dentures and other removable appliances.

Project Goals

- Educate the community on proper management and care of dentures and other removable oral appliances
- Bring awareness to denture-associated diseases and management
- Provide sample products of denture adhesive and cleanser to residents of Riverview Retirement Community

Partner Organization

Riverview Retirement Center was founded in 1959 and was deemed the first assisted living center located in Spokane.¹ This non-profit retirement center is home to 60+ residents that live in independent living, assisted living, and memory care units.¹ We collaborated with Riverview Retirement Center to address their concerns regarding oral health needs, and offered education on dentures and provided denture-care products.



Community Partner

Denture Care

Our project implemented an educational program to promote healthy oral care routines for residents. Our target community included certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and residents at Riverview Retirement Community. CNAs were included because they are often involved in the oral health routine and provide care for the residents. It is known that the attitude and education of caregivers are positively correlated with the level of care residents receive.³ Research stresses the need for this awareness by stating that 75% of elderly nursing home residents are in need of oral care, while only 7-10% often receive sufficient oral care.² The presentation was based on the importance of denture care. The main objectives of the educational program were to promote daily brushing of dentures with a non-abrasive cleanser, removing and soaking dentures in cleanser overnight, how to clean dentures after eating, and common lesions associated with dentures.

Denture-Associated Disease

Dentures, if not cared for properly, may contribute to the accumulation of plaque in the mouth. The bacteria within plaque can travel systemically through the body and raise health concerns such as cardiovascular disease.⁴

Our educational presentation promoted awareness of denture-associated diseases and educated on the importance of removing dentures nightly and regular cleaning of oral appliances. Failure to remove dentures from the oral cavity can lead to candida and fungal infections as fungi are major colonizers of the denture-wearing oral cavity.⁴

Common Denture-Associated Diseases include:

- Denture stomatitis⁴
- Angular cheilitis⁴
- Traumatic ulcers⁴
- Irritation hyperplasia⁴



Types of Denture for the Lower Jaw



Adhesive Application

Products Available

The products listed below are examples of denture care aids that were provided to the target community at Riverview Retirement Center:

- Poligrip Adhesive Cream⁵
- Polident Antibacterial Denture Cleanser⁵
- Polident Denture Bath⁵
- Polident Denture Brush⁵

Polident Cleansers:

- Polident Cleanser 3 minute⁵
- Polident Cleanser Overnight Whitening⁵
- Polident Cleanser Smokers⁵



Poligrip Adhesive, Polident Denture Cleanser, Polident Denture Starter Kit

Outcomes

- We developed a PowerPoint presentation that informed residents and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) of common lesions associated with dentures, how to take care of dentures, and how to use denture care products
- We implemented an evaluation instrument via pre-test and post-test to measure the comprehension of our denture presentation
- We collaborated with the community to conduct a needs assessment that identified current oral health needs and worked to address them
- Our program included a pre and post test which concluded that residents had scored an average of 80% after the post-test, which had a positive effect on resident knowledge.

References

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3. Schwindling, Krisam, J., Hassel, A. J., Rammelsberg, P., & Zenthöfer, A. (2018). Long-term success of oral health intervention among care-dependent institutionalized seniors: Findings from a controlled clinical trial. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*, 46(2), 109-117. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdoe.12335>
4. Liang, X., Chou, O. H. I., & Cheung, B. M. Y. (2023). The association between denture use and cardiovascular diseases. The United States National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2009-2018. *Frontiers in cardiovascular medicine*, 9, 1000478. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcvm.2022.1000478>
5. Polident. (n. d.). <https://www.polident.com/en-us/products/>