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ASSESSMENT OF INITIAL PATIENT VISITS TO A DENTAL CLINIC FOR OPTIMIZATION OF ORTHODONTIC CARE IN PATIENTS WITH PARTIAL ABSENCE OF TEETH

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ABSTRACT — Delayed patient visit to a dentist accounts for a deterioration of hygiene indices, resulting in partial or complete tooth loss. Studying the issue of the incidence of partial absence of teeth, as well as the organization and treatment of patients with this pathology, we found that quite often the provision of qualified care to patients with partial absence of teeth can become difficult due to the presence of some complications. Therefore, in this study, an analysis of the first patient visit to a dental clinic was carried out in order to optimize the quality of orthodontic care to patients with partial absence of teeth.

KEYWORDS — initial visit, a dental clinic, orthodontic care, referral, partial secondary edentia, organization of orthodontic care.

INTRODUCTION

Russian society has been in the phase of modernization of industry, the economics and the social sphere. Without an active participation of civil society the solution of such critical problems would be impossible. [1]

Therefore, the Association of private dental clinics has been actively operating in the country along with the Dental Association of Russia for 20 years.

The transition to market relations in the field of medicine has led to the emergence of alternative forms of medical care through commercial dental medical organizations. In recent years, the network of such organizations has grown noticeably, and they currently provide a fairly significant proportion of medical care to the population. [2, 3, 4]

Thus, in the process of this study, there was a need to analyze the indicators of the first patient visit to private dental organizations in Moscow according to several criteria.

Purpose of the study

is to conduct an analysis of the initial patient visit to dental clinics for optimizing orthodontic treatment of patients with partial absence of teeth.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Data analysis was carried out on the basis of 10 private dental clinics (PDC). The time period for the analysis of the initial patient visit to dental clinics was determined as — 2008–2018.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The dynamics of the number of initial patient referral to specialists at the PDC is visually reflected in the graph (Fig. 1). As it can be seen, throughout the analyzed time period, the largest part of the primary patient flow for medical care is distributed to dentists and dental therapists. Moreover, in the period of 2016, there was a general decline in patient flow in all areas of specialties.

We studied the distribution of patients according to initial visit to specialists at PDC, which is reflected in Table 1.

According to the analysis, it was found that the proportion of patients referring to dental therapists is 60.3–70.5% of the total patient flow. Of these, 45.3–61.8% is the patients who visited the clinic in the basis of voluntary health insurance (VMI) (Table 1).

The smallest proportion is made up of patients who initially refer to orthodontists — 1.3–4.2%. Of these, up to 3.5% are in patients who go to the clinic according to the VHI (Table 2).

In the process of analysis, a stable tendency was revealed: patients with partial absence of teeth most often get an appointment with an orthodontist in the direction of an orthopedic dentist, to whom, in turn, they are often referred by dental therapists. In this regard, an analysis of the patient referral was carried out: 1) from a dental therapist to an orthopedic dentist, 2) from an orthopedic dentist to an orthodontist (Table 3).

Thus, we can conclude that the specialty of a dental therapist is a key link at a dental organization. The majority of patients during their first visit to the PDC are accepted by a dental therapist, where they receive the necessary information and referral to the next specialist.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the resulting comprehensive analysis of the initial patient access to dental clinics can be taken as a basis for optimizing the organization and provision

of orthodontic treatment to patients with partial absence of teeth.

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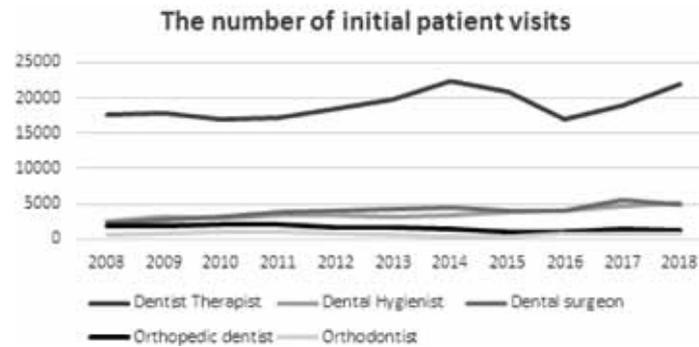


Fig. 1. The number of initial patient visits to specialists at PDC

Table 1. Initial referral to specialists at PDC

Speciality	Analyzed time period											
	% Of general patient flow	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dental Therapist		70,5	67,4	64,6	62,7	64,7	66,9	69,4	68,8	63,1	60,3	64,4
Dental Hygienist		10,3	11,7	11,5	12,2	11,9	11,0	10,7	12,9	14,9	15,2	15,0
Dental surgeon		9,6	10,5	12,0	13,8	14,4	14,4	14,1	13,5	15,1	17,3	14,5
Orthopedic dentist		7,3	6,9	7,7	7,4	6,1	5,3	4,4	3,5	4,0	4,7	3,9
Orthodontist		2,3	3,5	4,2	3,9	2,9	2,4	1,4	1,3	2,9	2,5	2,2

Table 2. Initial patient referral according to the VHI

Speciality	Analyzed time period											
	% Of general patient flow in the department	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dental Therapist		53,6	55,6	59,1	61,8	60,2	54,5	48,2	46,9	45,3	50,8	51,9
Dental Hygienist		45,1	42,8	43,4	43,2	39,3	42,4	49,1	57,8	60,8	65,0	75,5
Dental surgeon		61,9	58,7	58,3	60,4	60,8	53,0	46,0	51,9	48,3	51,4	52,5
Orthopedic dentist		12,2	6,1	7,7	7,1	7,1	6,5	3,9	5,7	3,5	2,7	1,8
Orthodontist		3,5	1,9	0,9	1,3	1,0	1,1	0,7	0,3	0,1	0	0,3

Table 3. Patient Referral

Direction	Analyzed time period											
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Dental Therapist												
↓	423	1094	2315	5468	7343	9346	12094	12602	11582	14022	12442	
Orthopedic dentist												
↓	NR	31	108	203	252	162	132	138	188	155	103	
Orthodontist												

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