**Regional Cooperation of Oral Care in Cancer Patients between Tenpaku-ku Dental Association and Nagoya Memorial Hospital**

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**Background:** Cancer patients often suffer from mucosal stomatitis during chemotherapy. Since our institute does not have a Department of Dentistry, community-based cooperation with dentists should be warranted to maintain the oral health in cancer patients. Therefore, we have developed the system of regional cooperation of oral care with local dentists since April, 2013.

**Methods:** This cooperation was initiated with lecture on oral care in cancer patients by late Dr. Youjiro Ohta (Shizuoka Cancer Center), which enabled us to discuss in concrete manner how to communicate between dental clinics and our institute. At first questionnaire survey was conducted for local dentists (n = 74), aiming at examining their will to participate in this cooperation, skill levels, consultation hours, and accommodations such as the presence of stairway and parking lots. Secondly, trainings on cancer treatment were performed, which contained general remarks on chemotherapy and Aichi-method of dental-medical cooperation, case study of oral care in the patients with hematological malignancy receiving stem cell transplantation, and molecular targeting therapy.

**Results:** Our survey showed that 86% of local dentists (64/74) have some interests in the regional cooperation of oral care in cancer patients. Based on this survey, three levels of training were organized by the cooperation between the oral care project members in our hospital and board of directors of Tenpaku-ku dental association. Initial exchange of patients’ information was conducted using FAX and 20 patients receiving chemotherapy entered Aichi-method cooperation of oral care from September, 2013. Early and preventive oral intervention by dentists was realized and the levels of self care were much improved, which could reduce the incidence and severity of oral complications.

**Conclusions:** Good cooperation between physicians and dentists is very important to continue chemotherapy maintaining the quality of life in cancer patients.