Implementation of a Comprehensive Dental Treatment Program

B.		Evans
L.		Adelewitz

The Mount Sinai School of Medicine Medical Center, New York, N.Y., USA

The dental team of the Cornell/Mount Sinai Program consists of a salaried dental hygienist and a voluntary oral surgeon, pedodontist, and general dentist. This team must meet the varied dental needs of a population numbering 350 primarily afflicted with factor VIII and IX deficiency. The dental staff is available initially for evaluation and consultation, examining, explaining and instructing patients – both on an inpatient and outpatient basis (fig. 1). Subsequently, complete dental treatment and surgical procedures are performed

where indicated at the facilities of the hospital to satisfy the specific requirements of individual patients (fig. 2, 3). However, all patients are encouraged to seek treatment in a private office if it is more efficacious. The hemophilia dental treatment team cooperates with private dentists and with satellite hemophilia programs in consulting and advising on the delivery of dental care. In addition to rendering dental treatment 'comprehensive' also includes teaching and research which are performed continuously (fig. 4).

Fig. 1. Examination of an inpatient haemophiliac patient with an inhibitor to factor replacement. Extreme neglect of his oral health necessitated that this particular patient undergoes more than 20 extractions.

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Fig. 2. Inpatient general dental treatment under general anesthesia for an unmanageable pediatric patient requiring considerable dental rehabilitation.

Fig. 3. Surgical removal of a tooth for an adult factor VIII patient on replacement therapy in conjunction with Avitene and EACA following a coordinated orthopedic elbow procedure.

Fig. 4. Clinical research involving the utilization of local hemostatic agents.