

## ***2738 Oral Health Status of a Hong Kong Institutionalized Elderly Population***

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**Objective:** An outreach dental service was established in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong in 1998, to serve the elderly living in elderly homes run by registered social service agencies. **Methods:** In the first 2 years, dental care was provided to 3153 institutionalized elderly aged 65 years or over (mean=79.8 years). 67% of the elderly were women and 33% were men. A standardized clinical examination was conducted on all subjects before the provision of treatment by one of two calibrated dentists. The examination procedures, instruments, and diagnostic criteria used followed those recommended by the World Health Organization. **Results:** It was found that 640 (20%) of the elderly were edentulous. The mean DMFT score of all subjects was 22.5 (DT=2.1; MT=20.1; FT=0.3). The prevalence of decayed or filled roots was 29%, and the mean number of decayed or filled roots was 0.6. The percentage of dentate subjects with healthy gingivae, bleeding on probing, calculus, shallow pockets, and deep pockets (according to the CPI) were 1, 2, 41, 37 and 20 respectively. Two-thirds of the elderly reported having difficulties in chewing, and one-third had not attended a dentist for over 5 years. **Conclusion:** These findings indicate that the study elderly had poor oral health and there is a need to improve their condition through an outreach dental care service. Supported by a grant from the S.K. Yee Medical Foundation.

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