

Assignment 1:3-Three Definitions

Due: June 2, 2021 (revised June 6/21)

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Introduction:

The term I chose to define is xerostomia, otherwise known as dry mouth. I chose this term because patients now more than ever are suffering from xerostomia. During the initial assessment of the patient, the dental hygienist will assess their needs by listening to their questions and listening to their responses to the hygienist's questions. (Bowen and Pieren 154) Oral health literacy is assessed during this process as it strongly influences a patient's ability to process and understand basic health/oral health information and make informed decisions regarding care. (Bowen and Pieren 154) Evidence that the patient has questions, misconceptions, or lack of knowledge indicates that there is an unmet need which requires further explanation using different types of definitions. (Bowen and Pieren 154) While educating the patient the dental hygienist may find it useful to use parenthetical definitions to begin with and expand on a term using the sentence definition if you plan on discussing the term in more detail.

Parenthetical Definition

Xerostomia (dry mouth) is dryness in the mouth which can be associated with a change in composition of saliva (spit) or reduced salivary flow. (Hopcraft and Tan 239)

Sentence Definition

The symptom of xerostomia is quite common and is often seen as a side effect of many types of medications and therefore is most common in the elderly population due to the frequent use of prescription medications. (Bowen and Pieren 191)

Expanded Definition

Etymology: The term xerostomia is derived from the Greek words **xeros** meaning "dry" and **stoma** meaning "mouth". ("Xerostomia")

Importance: Saliva plays an important role in oral health. It functions in protection against bacteria and fungi, transportation of nutrients and digestive enzymes, lubrication of the oral cavity, remineralization of teeth, as well as aiding in chewing, swallowing and speech. (Bowen and Pieren 2019, Hopcraft and Tan 238)

Causes: The symptom of xerostomia can be related normal physiology, or caused by medication use, autoimmune disorders, radiation therapy of the head and neck, as well as alcohol use and smoking. (Bowen and Pieren 191)

Implications: Xerostomia can also have a major impact on a patient's oral health and quality of life. Symptoms of xerostomia include halitosis (bad breath), oral soreness and burning, difficulty swallowing and talking, and altered taste. (Bowen and Pieren 191, Hopcraft and Tan 238)
Xerostomia can be managed with the use of saliva substitutes.



("3D Medical animation still showing Dry Mouth condition")

Works Cited

1. Bowen, D. Pieren, J. *Darby and walsh dental hygiene: theory and practice*. 5th ed., Elsevier, 2019, pg. 154, 191. Accessed 2 June 2021.
2. Hopcraft, M. and Tan, C. "Xerostomia: an update for clinicians". *Australian Dental Journal*, vol. 55, no. 3, 2010, pg. 238-244. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1834-7819.2010.01229.x>. Accessed 2 June 2021.
3. "Xerostomia." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 April 2021, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerostomia>. Accessed 2 June 2021.
4. "3D Medical animation still showing Dry Mouth condition" *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 March 2019, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerostomia#/media/File:Xerostomia - Dry Mouth.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerostomia#/media/File:Xerostomia_-_Dry_Mouth.jpg). Accessed 6 June 2021.