

CASE 1

CASE 1 IN DETAIL

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Background: Destructive Periodontal Disease is a chronic inflammatory condition of the oral cavity that manifests in bone loss and tooth loss. At present, one out of every two American adults aged 30 and over has periodontal disease, based on findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This study titled [Prevalence of Periodontitis in Adults in the United States: 2009 and 2010](#) estimates that 47.2 percent, or 64.7 million American adults, have mild, moderate or severe periodontitis, the more advanced form of periodontal disease. **What is increasingly apparent, as well, is the association between Chronic Periodontitis and chronic inflammatory diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.** To that end, clinical and translational periodontal research has started to accumulate data indicating that the management of one's Periodontal Disease may have a positive impact on the morbidity of chronic inflammatory diseases. Recent, joint studies from Periodontology and Cardiology national societies underscore the interest in this relationship.

IPE Case Proposal: This case-based scenario will investigate the question, "When does clinical scientific discovery become an expectation for best practices?" Specifically, areas to be explored will include the current evidence on oral-health and systemic health associations, patient level holistic health management and finally legal risk management/malpractice.

Secondary focus, the main patient base of the Periodontics specialty is an older population; the nature of destructive periodontal disease being a chronic disease, and of typical incidence in the 40's, fosters and engages patients in long-term relationships] ... typical dental schools face a challenge of preparing practitioner for the geriatric population (beyond physical illness... are we prepared to engage in a patient's social and emotional life as a therapist?).

Case: A 66 year old male has died of complications related to acute myocardial infarction. The family is taking up a malpractice case against the general dentist for failure to (properly) manage the deceased's periodontal disease, which they believe was contributory to the patient's health problems. A review of the patient's file reveals:

- Generalized moderate-severe chronic periodontitis
- Progressive cognitive impairment/"dementia"; it is revealed that patient was not compliant to related medications.
- Hypertension, Atherosclerosis, Previous cerebrovascular accident in 2002
- Patient is partially estranged from his children who live in-state
- Patient is fiercely "independent" and reluctantly participated in elder-daycare services, but only at the behest of his children.

<p>1. Could Improved Dental Care Take a Bite out of Cardiovascular Disease?</p> <p>Collaboration led by</p> <p>Harlan Shiau, Dentistry</p>	<p>Participating faculty</p> <p>Richard Boldt, Law</p> <p>Carroll Ann Trotman, Dentistry</p> <p>Rebecca Wiseman, Nursing</p> <p>Ed Pecukonis, Social Work</p>	<p>Max Enrollment: 35</p> <p>Location: School of Dentistry, G310</p>
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