

PERIODONTICS – “The Unsung Hero”

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INTRODUCTION

The term periodontics and its fundamentals are quite familiar among the dental professionals. Periodontology revolves around the periodontium, the construct that forms the support system of the tooth. It forms the core of dentistry which aids the other specialities to provide excellent outcomes. But the query is – Has periodontology received its due recognition or is it slurred over???

One of the most successful branches in dentistry is Orthodontics, which brings about esthetically pleasing smiles. However, the role of the alveolar bone and periodontal ligament, is often ignored in the outcome of successful orthodontic therapy. In Prosthodontics, the healthy periodontium of the adjacent teeth is of great importance and one of the key considerations in the practice of removable or fixed partial denture therapy.

Another attractive speciality in dentistry is Endodontics. However, the periodontal status of the tooth has to be given equal attention while deciding for a root canal treatment. The pediatric care involves the combination of treatment modalities of all other specialities in dentistry. One of the key factors for a successful outcome in the oral care of a child would be, to have a healthy periodontium.

The current vogue in the field is the esthetic dentistry, which has transformed a patient's perspective of dentistry tremendously. Besides white esthetics, pink esthetics is an integral part of the treatment which cannot be overlooked. Along with the dental considerations, systemic conditions of an individual can also be altered by the periodontal status of the tooth. The emerging concept of periodontal medicine, have time and again proved the bi- directional relationship between the periodontal health and disease and the systemic health and disease. an

orthodontist get favourable result if the Still some of the easily ignored questions are ... Can periodontium is unhealthy?... Can an endodontist guarantee a successful treatment on a periodontally

weak tooth?... Can a prosthodontist stabilize a denture without a stable adjacent tooth? ...Doesn't a child deserve an overall proper oral care?... Can we provide good esthetics without healthy gums?... The answers for all these questions are quite obvious and known to all.

It is clear that Periodontics can be seen as the core, which aids the other branches to build and flourish. But still the branch is considered as “the little thing”, and is often overlooked. The fact is “We flourish by what is little”.

Over the decades, Oral health care has seen through many developments, which has a significant impact in the practice of Periodontics. One of its greatest strength is that, the field is not static but rather evolves and refocuses continuously on the basis of contemporary research, spanning a vast array of scientific endeavor. All that the branch needs is a little acceptance and due consideration, which could surely guarantee a promising and exciting future.