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Knowledge, perceptions and oral health screening behaviors of diabetes patients in Public Hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Background: Periodontal disease among diabetes is a public health problem globally and more common problem in the developing world.

Objectives: The study was aimed at assessing knowledge, perception, and oral health screening behaviors of diabetes patients in selected Public Hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2018.

Methods: Institutional based cross-sectional study was conducted on 388 diabetes patients selected by systematic random sampling method from March to May 2018. The study was conducted at two conveniently selected Public Hospitals in Addis Ababa. Data were collected with pre-tested, structured and translated questionnaire then entered to SPSS version 23 software for analysis. Descriptive statistics as summary measures were applied. Multivariate logistics regression was conducted to see effects of Health Belief Model components on oral health screening status. A 95% CI with a p-value less than 5% was used as a level of significance.

Results: A less than half (48%) of participants had good knowledge. A lower proportion (21.2%) of diabetes patients had undergone oral health screening at a rate of two to more times per year. Participants who perceived they were susceptible to periodontal disease were 19 times more likely to have oral health screening than their counterparts at (95% CI: 4.463-82.579, p=0.000). Participants who perceived periodontal disease as severe had 3.4 times more odds of having oral health screening than those who didn't perceive at (95% CI: 1.620-7.489, p=.001). Participants who had perceived barriers had lower odds of having oral health screening than those who did not have perceived barriers at (95% CI: 0.065-.270, p=0.000). Participants with positive perception cues to action had 3.641 times more odds of having oral health screening than their counterparts at (95% CI: 1.839-7.209, p=0.000).

Conclusion & Recommendation: A lower proportion of diabetes patients were screened for oral health, while those with perceived more susceptibility, severity, and less perceived barriers to periodontal disease had good oral health screening perception than their counterparts.

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