

Comprehensive approach to managing Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Diagnostic Therapeutic Plans (DTP) with Dental Management in Patient Care

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context

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) presents a complex challenge in patient management, particularly because of cultural barriers making difficult the integration of diagnostic and therapeutic plans alongside dental care. This abstract outlines a comprehensive approach to address ALS management, focusing on the road for patients about diagnostic strategies, therapeutic interventions, and dental management. Diagnosing ALS requires a multifaceted approach, involving clinical evaluation, neuroimaging, electrophysiological studies, and biomarker assessments. Early diagnosis is crucial for initiating appropriate therapeutic interventions and enhancing patient outcomes. Therapeutic plans for ALS patients require personalized strategies, integrating pharmacological treatments, rehabilitation programs, and palliative care measures to address symptomatology and optimize quality of life. Dental management represents a crucial aspect of patient care for individuals with ALS. Oral health can significantly impact overall well-being, and patients may face unique challenges such as dysphagia, xerostomia, and difficulties in maintaining oral hygiene. Dental interventions should be tailored to accommodate the specific needs and limitations of ALS patients, incorporating preventive measures, supportive therapies, and adaptive dental techniques to promote oral health and comfort. At the Hospital of Piacenza (Italy) a multispecialty team created a DTP to optimize the different phases of treatment of ALS patients, including dental care: until now, Dentistry Unit managed 30 patients with ALS in different stages of disease from a first evaluation to the realization of different treatments as dental hygiene procedures, dental extraction, conservative treatments and prosthetic rehabilitation. In our healthcare reality, this clinical-organizational model is applied in the context of numerous chronic pathologies with high clinical and care complexity but the most part of the different dedicated multidisciplinary teams still do not include dental evaluation and care within their scope. Its recent inclusion in our healthcare organization's pathway represents a novel approach in terms of clinical appropriateness and organization, thus presenting a significant opportunity to continue promoting oral health, which is still strongly affected by deterioration in populations with special needs due to cultural deficiencies in both medical institutions and healthcare policies. In conclusion, a multispecialty approach to managing ALS encompasses comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, individualized therapeutic plans, and attentive dental management. By addressing these aspects collaboratively, healthcare professionals can optimize outcomes and enhance the quality of life for patients with ALS.

Keyword

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Dental management, Diagnostic Therapeutic Plans