

DENTISTRY AND DENTAL MATERIALS

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THE DENTAL CLINIC IS AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO PROMOTE THE PREVENTION OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) INFECTION

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This project was aimed to promote a screening program for HCV in a dental clinic affiliated to the Italian National Health System (NHS), by using the Easy-HCV test and determine the socio-demographic profile of subjects screened for HCV virus in a dental clinic to acquire useful information for future campaigns of prevention. Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that about 71 million people in the world are still affected by chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) and 399000 subjects die every year due to cirrhosis and cancer caused by HCV. For these reasons, the control of viral hepatitis is currently, ethically urgent and even economically convenient. The current strategies should include: Primary prevention (including vaccination and improved infection control); improving diagnosis rate, and management of existing cases of infections. The WHO strives to achieve goals of sustainable development by 2030 in many countries, increasing screening services, care and treatment to achieve projects the HCV elimination by 2030. In line with the WHO, the Italian NHS has played a very important role in health promotion in these years. The elimination of the HCV virus could be achieved in Italy only with the support of the NHS, and changes in management with regard to screening, prevention and treatment practices are needed. In this climax, a screening for HCV infection in the snits of dentistry seems to be a promising strategy to achieve the result. The present data represent a pilot experience in the direction, supported by the patient's associations. Data from this database are showed and discussed, referring to the concept of health prevention of systemic diseases, by a dental visit.