Current Status of Periodontal Treatment in Nihon University Dental Hospital

Koichi Ito and Seidai Murai

Department of periodontology, Nihon University School of Dentistry

The present report describes the current status of periodontal treatment at the periodontics department of Nihon University Dental Hospital. Five hundred eighty three patients with periodontal disease attended the periodontal clinic for treatment in 1992. All the patients except for those requiring emergency treatment were given a comprehensive examination, diagnosis and prognosis. They were then divided into two groups according to the degree and severity of periodontal disease: group 1 (patients with gingivitis and slight periodontitis), assigned to undergraduate students, and group 2 (patients with moderate to severe periodontitis, or systemic problems), assigned to graduate students and/or various faculties. The final goal of periodontal treatment in our department is to remove the etiologic factors, cure the gingival inflammation and establish periodontal health and a good oral environment. The removal of plaque and all contributory factors is the primary consideration in local therapy. Also, occlusal therapy aiming at elimination of trauma is important for establishing a good occlusal relationship. Systemic therapy in conjunction with local therapy is sometimes indicated, but only in a few cases. In general, all the patients were given initial treatment including oral hygiene instruction, scaling, root planing and occlusal adjustment, temporary splint, or minor tooth movement if needed. After reevaluation, some patients underwent periodontal surgery, particularly flap surgery. Periodontal prostheses were provided at the periodontics department or prosthodontics department. Most patients with regular recall appointments were placed on maintenance therapy. Unfortunately, recurrence of periodontal disease was sometimes noted, necessitating retreatment, particularly in patients who had received compromise therapy including attempts by the dentist and/or students to retain teeth with a questionable prognosis.