Periodontal Treatment Performance in Dental Practice in Thailand

Faculty of Dentistry, Cheng Mai University, Thailand
Kruahong, P., Tuangratanaphan, P., Umpriwan, R.

Key words: periodontal treatment, Thai dental practitioners

Aim: The aims of this study were to assess the periodontal treatment modalities performed in dental practices in Thailand.

Materials and Methods: 6,000 questionnaires were mailed to the registered members of the Thai Dental Association. The designed questionnaire concerning the treatment modalities provided for management of periodontal diseases, including scaling, root planing, oral hygiene instruction and extraction of the tooth. Additional data such as the number of years of practice, type of practice (private, public) and number of patients per day were also requested. SPSS-PC software package was utilized for preparing various frequency distribution and cross tabulation of the interesting variables. The Chi-square test was applied for statistical significance between groups.

Results: According to the 1,015 returned questionnaire, the treatment procedures frequently performed for periodontal patients were interpreted. 89.1% of the respondents provide scaling with ultrasonic scaler for most of their patients (more than 50% of the cases), while 29.0% using hand scalers (mostly "sickle") for their scaling procedure. Interestingly, only 9.7% of the respondents performed root planning for their periodontal patients. Concerning about oral hygiene instruction, only 34.6% of the respondents demonstrated to their patients how to use the oral hygiene devices. A small number of the respondents (11.2%) recalled their patients for maintenance visit. Regarding to extraction of the tooth, 25.2% of the respondents provided extraction for the teeth with early to moderate periodontitis while 61.7% extracted the teeth with advanced periodontitis. It was also found that there is some association between the type of practice and the performance treatment modalities.

Conclusion: In conclusion, removal of supra and subgingival microbial deposits, though, was indicated to be basic treatment for periodontal patients, carry out of such treatment procedures seems to have some limitation among the dental practitioners in Thailand.