Accelerated Orthodontics

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When considering the treatment of orthodontic issues in children, early orthodontic treatment is often recommended to address serious misalignment problems such as overcrowding and jaw discrepancies. This approach is designed to encourage better dental and facial development by identifying and correcting these issues early on. Early orthodontic treatment, commonly known as Phase I, usually begins between the ages of 7 and 10, when children's adult teeth are starting to come in. During this phase, appliances like braces or expanders may be used to prevent or correct problems that could not be managed with other methods, such as surgery or tooth extraction.

The benefits of early orthodontic treatment include the prevention of minor issues from becoming major ones. It allows orthodontists to monitor growth and development, correct bite and jaw problems, and prevent more serious complications later in life, such as speech difficulties and chewing issues. This two-phase treatment is particularly beneficial for conditions like severe crowding, protruding teeth, and crossbites.

Orthodontic treatments can improve speech and chewing functions **Early orthodontic intervention** American Association of Orthodontists.

When it involves more severe cases requiring surgical correction, such as orthognathic surgery, the treatment duration can be significantly longer. Combined orthodontic and surgical treatments often take around 21 to 36 months, with presurgical phases generally longer than postsurgical phases. For example, the presurgical phase can last about 15 to 17 months, while the postsurgical phase may last around 5 to 7 months. The total duration can vary based on factors like the treatment setting (e.g. private vs. public) and the need for extractions.

Early treatment not only helps in correcting dental issues but also in planning for a more efficient and less extensive treatment later in life. By correcting jaw discrepancies and bite problems early, children can avoid more serious dental problems and achieve a straight and healthy smile. This approach also helps in ensuring that the jaw is properly aligned to accommodate all permanent teeth, thus providing a better facial balance and dental development.

Invisalign First is designed for children aged 6 to 10, using clear, removable aligners to address early orthodontic needs, promoting proper jaw development and teeth alignment without traditional braces. —

- **Early Intervention with Invisalign First for Kids**
- Invisalign First is designed for children aged 6 to 10, using clear, removable aligners to address early orthodontic needs, promoting proper jaw development and teeth alignment without traditional braces.
- o <u>**The HealthyStart System**</u>
- This non-invasive approach targets the natural development of children's teeth and jaw, using soft dental appliances to align teeth and address breathing issues, reducing the need for more invasive treatments.
- **Myobrace: A No-Braces Approach**
- Myobrace offers a brace-free solution that corrects poor oral habits, guiding jaw and teeth alignment development in children, promoting natural growth and oral health.
- **Comprehensive Orthodontic Solutions**

When it come to orthodontic care, there are several specialized treatment models, each with specific benefits and time-frames. Two-phase orthodontic treatment is one such approach,

which is often used in cases where early dental and facial development issues need to be address. This method involves two separate phases of treatment, with a resting period in between.

The first phase typically begins during childhood, when the patient still has most of their primary teeth. This phase is focused on correcting jaw growth and the relationship between the upper and lower jaws. Orthodontic appliances such as expanders or partial braces are used to address issues like severe crossbites or underbites. The goal is to create an optimal environment for the permanent teeth to erupt and for the jaw to develop properly.

Between the two phases, there is a resting period. During this time, no braces are worn, and the dentist will monitor the patient's progress to ensure that the permanent teeth are erupting as they should. This period allows the remaining permanent teeth to emerge naturally without obstruction.

The second phase begins once most of the permanent teeth have erupted. This phase is similar to traditional orthodontic treatment and involves using full braces or aligners to position each tooth precisely within the newly aligned jaw structure. The focus here is on ensuring that all teeth function together optimally and are in harmony with the lips, cheeks, tongue, and other teeth.

Two-phase treatment is not the only approach that involves complex planning and time management. Combined orthodontic and surgical treatments also have specific timeframes. For example, the total treatment duration for orthodontic cases involving orthognathic surgery can vary significantly. In some cases, the median total treatment duration is approximately 21.9 months, with presurgical treatment typically requiring about 15.4 months and postsurgical treatment requiring about 5.9 months[1]. However, these times can vary based on factors such as the clinical setting and the need for extractions[3]. In private practice, treatment times may be shorter, with total treatment times of about 18.8 to 22 months for non-extraction and extraction cases, compared to longer times in public university-based treatments[3]. Understanding these treatment times is important for patient management and consent.

The HealthyStart System

When it involves orthodontic treatment prior to surgery, the process is a comprehensive and structured approach that often begins well before the surgical intervention. This phase, commonly requiring 12 to 18 months, is critical for aligning the teeth and ensuring that they fit together properly once the jaws are surgically realigning. During this period, patients usually have to visit their orthodontist regularly for adjustments and ongoing evaluation.

The pre-surgical orthodontic phase is designed to move the teeth into a position that will be optimal after surgery. This may sometimes appear as if the bite is getting worse rather than better, but it is a necessary step to align the interarch relationships before the surgery. The duration of this phase can vary based on factors like the complexity of the case and the need for extractions. For example, treatments involving extractions often result in longer pre-surgical and total treatment times.

The surgical phase, which can last anywhere from one to several hours depending on the type and complexity of the surgery, is a critical step in the overall treatment plan. Post-surgery, the healing process begins, with the initial phase requiring about 6 weeks and the completion of healing usually within 9 to 12 months. The post-surgical orthodontic phase, which often begins 4 to 8 weeks after surgery, is used to "fine-tine" the bite. This phase can last from 6 to 12 months, depending on the patient's specific needs and the complexity of the case.

In total, the combined orthodontic and surgical treatment can last anywhere from about 18 to 36 months, depending on the setting (e.g. private or public), the complexity of the case, and the specific procedures involved. For example, treatments in private practice may be shorter than those in public university or hospital-based treatments. The overall goal is to provide a well-ordinated treatment plan that results in both functional and visually appealing outcomes for the patient.



This non-invasive approach targets the natural development of children's teeth and jaw, using soft dental appliances to align teeth and address breathing

issues, reducing the need for more invasive treatments.

When it involves combined orthodontic and surgical treatment, the process is typically long and involves several stages. The orthodontic component is often the most time and detail- specific, as it requires significant progress before surgery can be performed. Pre-surgical orthodontics usually last between 9 to 18 months, during which the teeth are aligned in their optimal positions in each arch. The surgical component, which involves correcting skeletal deformities such as receded or protruding jaws, is generally performed once the teeth are suitably aligned and decompensated.

The surgical procedure typically requires an overnight stay in the hospital, with discharge usually the following day. Recovery from the surgery is relatively rapid, with most patients returning to normal activities within a few weeks. The initial healing process usually requires a liquid diet for the first few days, gradually advanced to a non-chew diet for about four weeks, and then to a soft-chew diet before returning to a normal diet after six weeks. If teeth are wired together post-surgery, a liquid diet may be necessary for up to six weeks.

Following surgery, post-surgical orthodontics are used to perfect the bite, which can take an additional three to six months. The total treatment duration, from the start of orthodontic work to the end of post-surgical orthodontics, can vary significantly. In some cases, the total treatment time can be as short as 18 to 22 months, especially in private practice, while in other cases, it may take up to 30 to 36 months. The complexity of the treatment, the setting (e.g. public or private), and the need for extractions are all factors that can affect the duration of the treatment.

In general, patients should expect a commitment of at about two to three years for the complete process. The surgical component and recovery are usually completed within about six weeks, but the orthodontic work before and after surgery can significantly add to the total duration. Close follow-up visits are important to ensure proper healing and to catch any complications early.

Myobrace: A No-Braces Approach

When it involves a comprehensive approach that includes orthodontic treatment and surgical corrections, the entire process can be a significant investment of time. For patients undergoing combined orthodontic and orthognathic surgery, the total treatment duration often requires a period of approximately two to three years. This prolonged duration is influenced by several factors, such as the complexity of the malocclusion, the need for extractions, and the clinical setting in which the treatment is provided.

The process typically involves a pre-surgical phase where orthodontic treatment is used to properly position the teeth for surgery. This phase alone can last between 12 to 24 months, depending on the specific needs of the patient and the experience of the orthodontist[4]. The surgical phase, which involves correcting jaw or other oral and jaw malocclusion, is a significant step but is often the shortest phase in terms of time, typically requiring a few months for the patient to be ready for post-surgical care.

The post-surgical phase involves further orthodontic treatment to perfect the occlusion and ensure that the teeth are aligned properly. This phase can last several months, often between 5 to 7 months, depending on the complexity of the treatment and the clinical setting[1][3]. In total, the combined treatment can vary significantly, with some cases requiring as short as 18 months in private practice for non-extraction cases, while more complicated cases, especially those involving extractions in a public setting, may take up to 27 months or more[3][5]. Therefore, it is essential for patients to be informed about these timelines to ensure they are well- informed and can plan their treatment process more precisely.





Myobrace offers a brace-free solution that corrects poor oral habits, guiding jaw and teeth alignment development in

children, promoting natural growth and oral health.

When considering combined orthodontic and surgical treatment for jaw and orthodontic issues, the decision to perform surgery is often not considered until the adolescent growth spurt is nearly complete. The reason for this timing is that jaw deformities are developmental, and their full impact may not be clear until facial growth is complete. Approximately 98% of facial growth is completed in girls by age 15 and in boys by age 17 or 18, with the growth spurt usually peaks in girls at age 12 and in boys at age 14[2]. Therefore, waiting until growth is nearly complete can provide a more accurate understanding of the deformity and help in planning the most appropriate treatment.

The treatment process for combined orthodontic and orthognathic surgery involves several significant time factors. The median total treatment duration can vary, but it often takes about 21.9 months, with presurgical treatment times of approximately 15.4 months and postsurgical treatment times of about 5.9 months[1]. However, these times can be affected by factors such as the need for extractions, the clinical setting (e.g., private or public), and the orthodontist's or surgeon's specific approach[1][3]. In some cases, treatment can be shorter, especially in private practice, where total treatment times have been reported as 18.8 to 22.0 months for non-extraction and extraction cases, compared to longer times in public university-based treatments[3]. The complexity and individual needs of each patient also significantly impact the duration and outcome of the treatment.

The decision to perform surgery during growth, known as early orthognathic surgery, is more commonly considered in cases where developmental jaw abnormalities significantly affect function or psychological well-being. Early intervention can provide benefits such as shorter treatment times and enhanced healing potential, but it requires a sound understanding of facial growth and the potential effects of surgery on subsequent growth[2]. Therefore, while waiting until growth is complete is often the approach for most cases, early surgical intervention may be warranted in specific situations where it can significantly improve the patient's health and well-being.

Comprehensive Orthodontic Solutions

The treatment of jaw deformities often requires a comprehensive approach that involves both orthodontic care and surgical intervention. This combined treatment is known as orthognathic surgery and is typically used to correct malocclusion issues that cannot be completely corrected with orthodontics alone. The process involves several months of orthodontic treatment before surgery to align the teeth properly, which is then decompensated to address any skeletal issues. The surgery, performed by an experienced oral surgeon, aims to realign the jaw to improve both oral health and facial aesthetics.

The duration of this combined treatment can vary significantly based on several factors, such as the complexity of the deformity, the need for extractions, and the setting in which the treatment is conducted. In general, the total treatment time for orthognathic surgery can range from approximately 18 to 36 months. For example, one study showed that the median total treatment duration was about 21.9 months, with a presurgical duration of 15.4 months and a postsurgical duration of 5.9 months[1]. In a private setting, total treatment times have been shorter, typically between 18.8 and 22 months, while treatments in a public university setting may take longer, often between 24.5 and 27.7 months[3]. The goal of this treatment is not only to correct the jaw alignment but also to enhance facial aesthetics and improve overall oral health.

The decision to combine orthodontic and surgical treatments is based on the specific needs of the patient. It is often necessary when the jaw misalignment is significant and cannot be corrected solely with orthodontics. The treatment process involves a multidisciplinary team, typically requiring numerous hospital visits and a detailed treatment plan. Patients are often provided with an average treatment time of about 2.5 to 3 years to help them plan and consent to the treatment[5]. The complexity and duration of the treatment highlight the need for clear patient information and a well-structured treatment plan to address both functional and aesthetically pleasing results.



About thumb sucking

For other uses, see Thumbsucker (disambiguation).



Infants may use pacifiers or their thumb or fingers to soothe themselves

Newborn baby thumb sucking



A bonnet macaque thumb sucking

Thumb sucking is a behavior found in humans, chimpanzees, captive ring-tailed lemurs,^[1] and other primates.^[2] It usually involves placing the thumb into the mouth and rhythmically repeating sucking contact for a prolonged duration. It can also be accomplished with any organ within reach (such as other fingers and toes) and is considered to be soothing and therapeutic for the person. As a child develops the habit, it will usually develop a "favourite" finger to suck on.

At birth, a baby will reflexively suck any object placed in its mouth; this is the sucking reflex responsible for breastfeeding. From the first time they engage in nutritive feeding, infants learn that the habit can not only provide valuable nourishment, but also a great deal of pleasure, comfort, and warmth. Whether from a mother, bottle, or pacifier, this behavior, over time, begins to become associated with a very strong, self-soothing, and pleasurable oral sensation. As the child grows older, and is eventually weaned off the nutritional sucking, they can either develop alternative means for receiving those same feelings of physical and emotional fulfillment, or they can continue experiencing those pleasantly soothing experiences by beginning to suck their thumbs or fingers[³] This reflex disappears at about 4 months of age; thumb sucking is not purely an instinctive behavior and therefore can last much longer.[⁴] Moreover, ultrasound scans have revealed that thumb sucking can start before birth, as early as 15 weeks from conception; whether this behavior is voluntary or due to random movements of the fetus in the womb is not conclusively known.

Thumb sucking generally stops by the age of 4 years. Some older children will retain the habit, which can cause severe dental problems.^[5] While most dentists would recommend breaking the habit as early as possible, it has been shown that as long as the habit is broken before the onset of permanent teeth, at around 5 years old, the damage is reversible.^[6] Thumb sucking is sometimes retained into adulthood and may be due to simply habit continuation. Using anatomical and neurophysiological data a study has found that sucking the thumb is said to stimulate receptors within the brain which cause the release of mental and physical tension.^[7]

Dental problems and prevention

[edit]



Alveolar prognathism, caused by thumb sucking and tongue thrusting in a 7-year-old girl.

Percentage of children who suck their thumbs (data from two researchers)

Age	Kantorowicz[⁴]	Brückl[⁸]
0–1	92%	66%
1–2	93%	00 /0
2–3	87%	_
3–4	86%	
4–5	85%	25%
5–6	76%	
Over 6	i —	9%

Most children stop sucking on thumbs, pacifiers or other objects on their own between 2 and 4 years of age. No harm is done to their teeth or jaws until permanent teeth start to erupt. The only time it might cause concern is if it goes on beyond 6 to 8 years of age. At this time, it may affect the shape of the oral cavity or dentition.^[9] During thumbsucking the tongue sits in a lowered position and so no longer balances the forces from the buccal group of musculature. This results in narrowing of the upper arch and a posterior crossbite. Thumbsucking can also cause the maxillary central incisors to tip labially and the mandibular incisors to tip lingually, resulting in an increased overjet and anterior open bite malocclusion, as the thumb rests on them during the course of sucking. In addition to proclination of the maxillary incisors, mandibular incisors retrusion will also happen. Transverse maxillary deficiency gives rise to posterior crossbite, ultimately leading to a Class II malocclusion.^{[10}]

Children may experience difficulty in swallowing and speech patterns due to the adverse changes. Aside from the damaging physical aspects of thumb sucking, there are also additional risks, which unfortunately, are present at all ages. These include increased risk of infection from communicable diseases, due to the simple fact that non-sterile thumbs are covered with infectious agents, as well as many social implications. Some children experience social difficulties, as often children are taunted by their peers for engaging in what they can consider to be an "immature" habit. This taunting often results the child being rejected by the group or being subjected to ridicule by their peers, which can cause understandable psychological stress.^[11]

Methods to stop sucking habits are divided into 2 categories: Preventive Therapy and Appliance Therapy.[¹⁰]

Examples to prevent their children from sucking their thumbs include the use of bitterants or piquant substances on their child's hands—although this is not a procedure encouraged by the American Dental Association[⁹] or the Association of Pediatric Dentists. Some suggest that positive reinforcements or calendar rewards be given to encourage the child to stop sucking their thumb.

The American Dental Association recommends:

- Praise children for not sucking, instead of scolding them when they do.
- If a child is sucking their thumb when feeling insecure or needing comfort, focus instead on correcting the cause of the anxiety and provide comfort to your child.
- If a child is sucking on their thumb because of boredom, try getting the child's attention with a fun activity.
- $\circ\,$ Involve older children in the selection of a means to cease thumb sucking.
- The pediatric dentist can offer encouragement to the child and explain what could happen to the child's teeth if he/she does not stop sucking.
- Only if these tips are ineffective, remind the child of the habit by bandaging the thumb or putting a sock/glove on the hand at night.
- Other orthodontics^{[12}] for appliances are available.

The British Orthodontic Society recommends the same advice as ADA.^[13]

A Cochrane review was conducted to review the effectiveness of a variety of clinical interventions for stopping thumb-sucking. The study showed that orthodontic appliances and psychological interventions (positive and negative reinforcement) were successful at preventing thumb sucking in both the short and long term, compared to no treatment.^[14] Psychological interventions such as habit reversal training and decoupling have also proven useful in body focused repetitive behaviors.^[15]

Clinical studies have shown that appliances such as TGuards can be 90% effective in breaking the thumb or finger sucking habit. Rather than use bitterants or piquants, which are not endorsed by the ADA due to their causing of discomfort or pain, TGuards break the habit simply by removing the suction responsible for generating the feelings of comfort and nurture[¹⁶] Other appliances are available, such as fabric thumb guards, each having their own benefits and features depending on the child's age, willpower and motivation. Fixed intraoral appliances have been known to create problems during eating as children when removing their appliances may have a risk of breaking them. Children with mental illness may have reduced compliance.[¹⁰]

Some studies mention the use of extra-oral habit reminder appliance to treat thumb sucking. An alarm is triggered when the child tries to suck the thumb to stop the child from this habit[¹⁰][¹⁷] However, more studies are required to prove the effectiveness of external devices on thumb sucking.

Children's books

[edit]

- In Heinrich Hoffmann's *Struwwelpeter*, the "thumb-sucker" Konrad is punished by having both of his thumbs cut off.
- There are several children's books on the market with the intention to help the child break the habit of thumb sucking. Most of them provide a story the child can relate to and some coping strategies.^[18] Experts recommend to use only books in which the topic of thumb sucking is shown in a positive and respectful way.^[19]

See also

[edit]

- Stereotypic movement disorder
- Prognathism

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About health professional

A health professional, healthcare professional, or healthcare worker (sometimes abbreviated HCW)^[1] is a provider of health care treatment and advice based on formal training and experience. The field includes those who work as a nurse, physician (such as family physician, internist, obstetrician, psychiatrist, radiologist, surgeon etc.), physician assistant, registered dietitian, veterinarian, veterinary technician, optometrist, pharmacist, pharmacy technician, medical assistant, physical therapist, occupational therapist, dentist, midwife, psychologist, audiologist, or healthcare scientist, or who perform services in allied health professions. Experts in public health and community health are also health professionals.

Fields

[edit]



NY College of Health Professions massage therapy class



US Navy doctors deliver a healthy baby

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Health practitioners and professionals

- Athletic trainer
- Audiologist
- Chiropractor
- Clinical coder
- Clinical nurse specialist
- Clinical officer
- Community health worker
- Dentist
- Dietitian and nutritionist
- Emergency medical technician
- Feldsher
- Health administrator
- Medical assistant
- Medical laboratory scientist
- Medical transcriptionist
- Nurse anesthetist
- Nurse practitioner
- Nurse midwife
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Paramedic
- Pharmacist
- Pharmaconomist
- Pharmacy technician
- Phlebotomist
- Physician
- Physician assistant
- Podiatrist
- Psychologist
- Psychotherapist
- Physical therapist
- Radiographer
- Radiotherapist
- Respiratory therapist
- Speech-language pathologist
- Social Work
- Surgeon
- Surgeon's assistant
- Surgical technologist



70% of global health and social care workers are women, 30% of leaders in the global health sector are women

The healthcare workforce comprises a wide variety of professions and occupations who provide some type of healthcare service, including such direct care practitioners as physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, respiratory therapists, dentists, pharmacists, speechlanguage pathologist, physical therapists, occupational therapists, physical and behavior therapists, as well as allied health professionals such as phlebotomists, medical laboratory scientists, dieticians, and social workers. They often work in hospitals, healthcare centers and other service delivery points, but also in academic training, research, and administration. Some provide care and treatment services for patients in private homes. Many countries have a large number of community health workers who work outside formal healthcare institutions. Managers of healthcare services, health information technicians, and other assistive personnel and support workers are also considered a vital part of health care teams.^{[2}]

Healthcare practitioners are commonly grouped into health professions. Within each field of expertise, practitioners are often classified according to skill level and skill specialization. "Health professionals" are highly skilled workers, in professions that usually require extensive knowledge including university-level study leading to the award of a first degree or higher qualification.³] This category includes physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, dentists, midwives, radiographers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, optometrists, operating department practitioners and others. Allied health professionals, also referred to as "health associate professionals" in the International Standard Classification of Occupations, support implementation of health care, treatment and referral plans usually established by medical, nursing, respiratory care, and other health professionals, and usually require formal qualifications to practice their profession. In addition, unlicensed assistive personnel assist with providing health care services as permitted. *citation needed*

Another way to categorize healthcare practitioners is according to the sub-field in which they practice, such as mental health care, pregnancy and childbirth care, surgical care, rehabilitation care, or public health. *citation needed*

Mental health

[edit]

Main article: Mental health professional

A mental health professional is a health worker who offers services to improve the mental health of individuals or treat mental illness. These include psychiatrists, psychiatry physician assistants, clinical, counseling, and school psychologists, occupational therapists, clinical social workers, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, as well as other health professionals and allied health professions. These health care providers often deal with the same illnesses, disorders, conditions, and issues; however, their scope of practice often differs. The most significant difference across categories of mental health practitioners is education and training.^{[4}] There are many damaging effects to the health care workers. Many have had diverse negative psychological symptoms ranging from emotional trauma to very severe anxiety. Health care workers have not been treated right and because of that their mental, physical, and emotional health has been affected by it. The SAGE author's said that there were 94% of nurses that had experienced at least one PTSD after the traumatic experience. Others have experienced nightmares, flashbacks, and short and long term emotional reactions^[5] The abuse is causing detrimental effects on these health care workers. Violence is causing health care workers to have a negative attitude toward work tasks and patients, and because of that they are "feeling pressured to accept the order, dispense a product, or administer a medication" [⁶] Sometimes it can range from verbal to sexual to physical harassment, whether the abuser is a patient, patient's families, physician, supervisors, or nurses. citation needed

Obstetrics

[edit] Main articles: Obstetrics, Midwifery, and Birth attendant

A maternal and newborn health practitioner is a health care expert who deals with the care of women and their children before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth. Such health practitioners include obstetricians, physician assistants, midwives, obstetrical nurses and many others. One of the main differences between these professions is in the training and authority to provide surgical services and other life-saving interventions.^[7] In some developing countries, traditional birth attendants, or traditional midwives, are the primary source of pregnancy and childbirth care for many women and families, although they are not certified or licensed. According to research, rates for unhappiness among obstetrician-gynecologists (Ob-Gyns) range somewhere between 40 and 75 percent.^[8]

Geriatrics

[edit] Main articles: Geriatrics and Geriatric care management

A geriatric care practitioner plans and coordinates the care of the elderly and/or disabled to promote their health, improve their quality of life, and maintain their independence for as long as possible.^[9] They include geriatricians, occupational therapists, physician assistants, adult-gerontology nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, geriatric clinical pharmacists, geriatric

nurses, geriatric care managers, geriatric aides, nursing aides, caregivers and others who focus on the health and psychological care needs of older adults. *citation needed*

Surgery

[edit]

A surgical practitioner is a healthcare professional and expert who specializes in the planning and delivery of a patient's perioperative care, including during the anaesthetic, surgical and recovery stages. They may include general and specialist surgeons, physician assistants, assistant surgeons, surgical assistants, veterinary surgeons, veterinary technicians. anesthesiologists, anesthesiologist assistants, nurse anesthetists, surgical nurses, clinical officers, operating department practitioners, anaesthetic technicians, perioperative nurses, surgical technologists, and others.[[]*citation needed*]

Rehabilitation

[edit]

A rehabilitation care practitioner is a health worker who provides care and treatment which aims to enhance and restore functional ability and quality of life to those with physical impairments or disabilities. These include physiatrists, physician assistants, rehabilitation nurses, clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists, chiropractors, orthotists, prosthetists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, audiologists, speech and language pathologists, respiratory therapists, rehabilitation counsellors, physical rehabilitation therapists, athletic trainers, physiotherapy technicians, orthotic technicians, prosthetic technicians, personal care assistants, and others.[¹⁰]

Optometry

[edit] Main article: Optometry

Optometry is a field traditionally associated with the correction of refractive errors using glasses or contact lenses, and treating eye diseases. Optometrists also provide general eye care, including screening exams for glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy and management of routine or eye conditions. Optometrists may also undergo further training in order to specialize in various fields, including glaucoma, medical retina, low vision, or paediatrics. In some countries, such as the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada, Optometrists may also undergo further training in order to be able to perform some surgical procedures.

Diagnostics

[edit]

Main article: Medical diagnosis

Medical diagnosis providers are health workers responsible for the process of determining which disease or condition explains a person's symptoms and signs. It is most often referred to as diagnosis with the medical context being implicit. This usually involves a team of healthcare providers in various diagnostic units. These include radiographers, radiologists, Sonographers, medical laboratory scientists, pathologists, and related professionals. *Icitation needed*

Dentistry

[edit]



Dental assistant on the right supporting a dental operator on the left, during a procedure.

Main article: Dentistry

A dental care practitioner is a health worker and expert who provides care and treatment to promote and restore oral health. These include dentists and dental surgeons, dental assistants, dental auxiliaries, dental hygienists, dental nurses, dental technicians, dental therapists or oral health therapists, and related professionals.

Podiatry

[edit]

Care and treatment for the foot, ankle, and lower leg may be delivered by podiatrists, chiropodists, pedorthists, foot health practitioners, podiatric medical assistants, podiatric nurse and others.

Public health

[edit]

A public health practitioner focuses on improving health among individuals, families and communities through the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries, surveillance of cases, and promotion of healthy behaviors. This category includes community and preventive medicine specialists, physician assistants, public health nurses, pharmacist, clinical nurse specialists, dietitians, environmental health officers (public health inspectors), paramedics, epidemiologists,

Alternative medicine

[edit]

In many societies, practitioners of alternative medicine have contact with a significant number of people, either as integrated within or remaining outside the formal health care system. These include practitioners in acupuncture, Ayurveda, herbalism, homeopathy, naturopathy, Reiki, Shamballa Reiki energy healing Archived 2021-01-25 at the Wayback Machine, Siddha medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, traditional Korean medicine, Unani, and Yoga. In some countries such as Canada, chiropractors and osteopaths (not to be confused with doctors of osteopathic medicine in the United States) are considered alternative medicine practitioners.

Occupational hazards

[edit]

See also: Occupational hazards in dentistry and Nursing § Occupational hazards



A healthcare professional wears an air sampling device to investigate exposure to airborne influenza

A video describing the Occupational Health and Safety Network, a tool for monitoring occupational hazards to health care workers

The healthcare workforce faces unique health and safety challenges and is recognized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as a priority industry sector in the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) to identify and provide intervention strategies regarding occupational health and safety issues.^[11]

Biological hazards

[edit]

Exposure to respiratory infectious diseases like tuberculosis (caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) and influenza can be reduced with the use of respirators; this exposure is a significant occupational hazard for health care professionals.^[12] Healthcare workers are also at risk for diseases that are contracted through extended contact with a patient, including scabies.^[13]

Health professionals are also at risk for contracting blood-borne diseases like hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS through needlestick injuries or contact with bodily fluids [14][15] This risk can be mitigated with vaccination when there is a vaccine available, like with hepatitis B[15] In epidemic situations, such as the 2014-2016 West African Ebola virus epidemic or the 2003 SARS outbreak, healthcare workers are at even greater risk, and were disproportionately affected in both the Ebola and SARS outbreaks.[16]

In general, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is the first-line mode of protection for healthcare workers from infectious diseases. For it to be effective against highly contagious diseases, personal protective equipment must be watertight and prevent the skin and mucous membranes from contacting infectious material. Different levels of personal protective equipment created to unique standards are used in situations where the risk of infection is different. Practices such as triple gloving and multiple respirators do not provide a higher level of protection and present a burden to the worker, who is additionally at increased risk of exposure when removing the PPE. Compliance with appropriate personal protective equipment rules may be difficult in certain situations, such as tropical environments or low-resource settings. A 2020 Cochrane systematic review found low-quality evidence that using more breathable fabric in PPE, double gloving, and active training reduce the risk of contamination but that more randomized controlled trials are needed for how best to train healthcare workers in proper PPE use[¹⁶]

Tuberculosis screening, testing, and education

[edit]

Based on recommendations from The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for TB screening and testing the following best practices should be followed when hiring and employing Health Care Personnel.¹⁷]

When hiring Health Care Personnel, the applicant should complete the following [¹⁸] a TB risk assessment, [¹⁹] a TB symptom evaluation for at least those listed on the Signs & Symptoms page, [²⁰] a TB test in accordance with the guidelines for Testing for TB Infection, [²¹] and additional evaluation for TB disease as needed (e.g. chest x-ray for HCP with a positive TB test)[¹⁸] The CDC recommends either a blood test, also known as an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA), or a skin test, also known as a Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST).[²¹] A TB blood test for baseline testing does not require two-step testing. If the skin test method is used to test HCP upon hire, then two-step testing should be used. A one-step test is not recommended.[¹⁸]

The CDC has outlined further specifics on recommended testing for several scenarios[²²] In summary:

- 1. Previous documented positive skin test (TST) then a further TST is not recommended
- 2. Previous documented negative TST within 12 months before employment OR at least two documented negative TSTs ever then a single TST is recommended
- 3. All other scenarios, with the exception of programs using blood tests, the recommended testing is a two-step TST

According to these recommended testing guidelines any two negative TST results within 12 months of each other constitute a two-step TST.

For annual screening, testing, and education, the only recurring requirement for all HCP is to receive TB education annually.[¹⁸] While the CDC offers education materials, there is not a well defined requirement as to what constitutes a satisfactory annual education. Annual TB testing is no longer recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission at a healthcare facility. Should an HCP be considered at increased occupational risk for TB annual screening may be considered. For HCP with a documented history of a positive TB test result do not need to be re-tested but should instead complete a TB symptom evaluation. It is assumed that any HCP who has undergone a chest x-ray test has had a previous positive test result. When considering mental health you may see your doctor to be evaluated at your digression. It is recommended to see someone at least once a year in order to make sure that there has not been any sudden changes[23]

Psychosocial hazards

[edit]

Occupational stress and occupational burnout are highly prevalent among health professionals [²⁴] Some studies suggest that workplace stress is pervasive in the health care industry because of inadequate staffing levels, long work hours, exposure to infectious diseases and hazardous substances leading to illness or death, and in some countries threat of malpractice litigation. Other stressors include the emotional labor of caring for ill people and high patient loads. The consequences of this stress can include substance abuse, suicide, major depressive disorder, and anxiety, all of which occur at higher rates in health professionals than the general working population. Elevated levels of stress are also linked to high rates of burnout, absenteeism and diagnostic errors, and reduced rates of patient satisfaction.[²⁵] In Canada, a national report (*Canada's Health Care Providers*) also indicated higher rates of absenteeism due to illness or disability among health care workers compared to the rest of the working population, although those working in health care reported similar levels of good health and fewer reports of being injured at work.[²⁶]

There is some evidence that cognitive-behavioral therapy, relaxation training and therapy (including meditation and massage), and modifying schedules can reduce stress and burnout among multiple sectors of health care providers. Research is ongoing in this area, especially with regards to physicians, whose occupational stress and burnout is less researched compared to other health professions.²⁷]

Healthcare workers are at higher risk of on-the-job injury due to violence. Drunk, confused, and hostile patients and visitors are a continual threat to providers attempting to treat patients. Frequently, assault and violence in a healthcare setting goes unreported and is wrongly assumed to be part of the job.[²⁸] Violent incidents typically occur during one-on-one care; being alone with patients increases healthcare workers' risk of assault.[²⁹] In the United States, healthcare workers experience 2?3 of nonfatal workplace violence incidents.[²⁸] Psychiatric units represent the highest proportion of violent incidents, at 40%; they are followed by geriatric units (20%) and the

emergency department (10%). Workplace violence can also cause psychological trauma^{[29}]

Health care professionals are also likely to experience sleep deprivation due to their jobs. Many health care professionals are on a shift work schedule, and therefore experience misalignment of their work schedule and their circadian rhythm. In 2007, 32% of healthcare workers were found to get fewer than 6 hours of sleep a night. Sleep deprivation also predisposes healthcare professionals to make mistakes that may potentially endanger a patient.³⁰]

COVID pandemic

[edit]

Especially in times like the present (2020), the hazards of health professional stem into the mental health. Research from the last few months highlights that COVID-19 has contributed greatly to the degradation of mental health in healthcare providers. This includes, but is not limited to, anxiety, depression/burnout, and insomnia.[[]*citation needed*]

A study done by Di Mattei et al. (2020) revealed that 12.63% of COVID nurses and 16.28% of other COVID healthcare workers reported extremely severe anxiety symptoms at the peak of the pandemic.[³¹] In addition, another study was conducted on 1,448 full time employees in Japan. The participants were surveyed at baseline in March 2020 and then again in May 2020. The result of the study showed that psychological distress and anxiety had increased more among healthcare workers during the COVID-19 outbreak.[³²]

Similarly, studies have also shown that following the pandemic, at least one in five healthcare professionals report symptoms of anxiety.[³³] Specifically, the aspect of "anxiety was assessed in 12 studies, with a pooled prevalence of 23.2%" following COVID.[³³] When considering all 1,448 participants that percentage makes up about 335 people.

Abuse by patients

[edit]

- The patients are selecting victims who are more vulnerable. For example, Cho said that these would be the nurses that are lacking experience or trying to get used to their new roles at work.[³⁴]
- Others authors that agree with this are Vento, Cainelli, & Vallone and they said that, the reason patients have caused danger to health care workers is because of insufficient communication between them, long waiting lines, and overcrowding in waiting areas[³⁵] When patients are intrusive and/or violent toward the faculty, this makes the staff question what they should do about taking care of a patient.
- There have been many incidents from patients that have really caused some health care workers to be traumatized and have so much self doubt. Goldblatt and other authors said that there was a lady who was giving birth, her husband said, "Who is in charge around

here"? "Who are these sluts you employ here".[⁵] This was very avoidable to have been said to the people who are taking care of your wife and child.

Physical and chemical hazards

[edit]

Slips, trips, and falls are the second-most common cause of worker's compensation claims in the US and cause 21% of work absences due to injury. These injuries most commonly result in strains and sprains; women, those older than 45, and those who have been working less than a year in a healthcare setting are at the highest risk.[³⁶]

An epidemiological study published in 2018 examined the hearing status of noise-exposed health care and social assistance (HSA) workers sector to estimate and compare the prevalence of hearing loss by subsector within the sector. Most of the HSA subsector prevalence estimates ranged from 14% to 18%, but the Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories subsector had 31% prevalence and the Offices of All Other Miscellaneous Health Practitioners had a 24% prevalence. The Child Day Care Services subsector also had a 52% higher risk than the reference industry [³⁷]

Exposure to hazardous drugs, including those for chemotherapy, is another potential occupational risk. These drugs can cause cancer and other health conditions.^[38]

Gender factors

[edit]

Female health care workers may face specific types of workplace-related health conditions and stress. According to the World Health Organization, women predominate in the formal health workforce in many countries and are prone to musculoskeletal injury (caused by physically demanding job tasks such as lifting and moving patients) and burnout. Female health workers are exposed to hazardous drugs and chemicals in the workplace which may cause adverse reproductive outcomes such as spontaneous abortion and congenital malformations. In some contexts, female health workers are also subject to gender-based violence from coworkers and patients.[³⁹][⁴⁰]

Workforce shortages

[edit]

See also: Health workforce, Doctor shortage, and Nursing shortage

Many jurisdictions report shortfalls in the number of trained health human resources to meet population health needs and/or service delivery targets, especially in medically underserved areas. For example, in the United States, the 2010 federal budget invested \$330 million to increase the

number of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, and dentists practicing in areas of the country experiencing shortages of trained health professionals. The Budget expands loan repayment programs for physicians, nurses, and dentists who agree to practice in medically underserved areas. This funding will enhance the capacity of nursing schools to increase the number of nurses. It will also allow states to increase access to oral health care through dental workforce development grants. The Budget's new resources will sustain the expansion of the health care workforce funded in the Recovery Act.^{[41}] There were 15.7 million health care professionals in the US as of 2011.^{[36}]

In Canada, the 2011 federal budget announced a Canada Student Loan forgiveness program to encourage and support new family physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurses to practice in underserved rural or remote communities of the country, including communities that provide health services to First Nations and Inuit populations.^{[42}]

In Uganda, the Ministry of Health reports that as many as 50% of staffing positions for health workers in rural and underserved areas remain vacant. As of early 2011, the Ministry was conducting research and costing analyses to determine the most appropriate attraction and retention packages for medical officers, nursing officers, pharmacists, and laboratory technicians in the country's rural areas.[⁴³]

At the international level, the World Health Organization estimates a shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses, and support workers worldwide to meet target coverage levels of essential primary health care interventions.[⁴⁴] The shortage is reported most severe in 57 of the poorest countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Nurses are the most common type of medical field worker to face shortages around the world. There are numerous reasons that the nursing shortage occurs globally. Some include: inadequate pay, a large percentage of working nurses are over the age of 45 and are nearing retirement age, burnout, and lack of recognition.^{[45}]

Incentive programs have been put in place to aid in the deficit of pharmacists and pharmacy students. The reason for the shortage of pharmacy students is unknown but one can infer that it is due to the level of difficulty in the program.[⁴⁶]

Results of nursing staff shortages can cause unsafe staffing levels that lead to poor patient care. Five or more incidents that occur per day in a hospital setting as a result of nurses who do not receive adequate rest or meal breaks is a common issue.⁴⁷]

Regulation and registration

[edit]

Main article: Health professional requisites

Practicing without a license that is valid and current is typically illegal. In most jurisdictions, the provision of health care services is regulated by the government. Individuals found to be providing medical, nursing or other professional services without the appropriate certification or license may face sanctions and criminal charges leading to a prison term. The number of professions subject to

regulation, requisites for individuals to receive professional licensure, and nature of sanctions that can be imposed for failure to comply vary across jurisdictions.

In the United States, under Michigan state laws, an individual is guilty of a felony if identified as practicing in the health profession without a valid personal license or registration. Health professionals can also be imprisoned if found guilty of practicing beyond the limits allowed by their licenses and registration. The state laws define the scope of practice for medicine, nursing, and a number of allied health professions.[⁴⁸][[]*unreliable source?*[]] In Florida, practicing medicine without the appropriate license is a crime classified as a third degree felony,[⁴⁹] which may give imprisonment up to five years. Practicing a health care profession without a license which results in serious bodily injury classifies as a second degree felony,[⁴⁹] providing up to 15 years' imprisonment.

In the United Kingdom, healthcare professionals are regulated by the state; the UK Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) protects the 'title' of each profession it regulates. For example, it is illegal for someone to call himself an Occupational Therapist or Radiographer if they are not on the register held by the HCPC.

See also

[edit]

- List of healthcare occupations
- Community health center
- Chronic care management
- Electronic superbill
- Geriatric care management
- Health human resources
- Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

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External links

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Health care

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Professions

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- Health information management

Settings	 Assisted living Clinic Hospital Nursing home Medical school (Academic health science centre, Teaching hospital) Pharmacy school Supervised injection site
Care	 Acute Chronic End-of-life Hospice Overutilization Palliative Primary Self Total
Skills / training	 Bedside manner Cultural competence Diagnosis Education Universal precautions
Technology	 3D bioprinting Artificial intelligence Connected health Digital health Electronic health records mHealth Nanomedicine Telemedicine

Health informatics	 Medical image computing and imaging informatics Artificial intelligence in healthcare Neuroinformatics in healthcare Behavior informatics in healthcare Computational biology in healthcare Translational bioinformatics Translational medicine health information technology Telemedicine Public health informatics Health information management Consumer health informatics
By country	 United States reform debate in the United States History of public health in the United States United Kingdom Canada Australia New Zealand (Category Health care by country)

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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of early orthodontic intervention for children?

Early orthodontic treatment can help correct jaw and tooth alignment issues, which may significantly lower the need for extractions and jaw surgery later on. It also encourages healthy facial growth and a more balanced bite[2][5].

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