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TOOTH EXTRACTION FOR HIV PATIENTS: A COMMUNITY SERVICE

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Patients with HIV often encounter significant oral health difficulties that can impact their overall well-being. Tooth extraction stands as a pivotal intervention to address these issues. A community service was conducted to give free tooth extraction to HIV patients and to educate patients on how such procedures can enhance their oral health by eliminating dental focal infections. Furthermore, it includes a survey component to assess patient satisfaction levels.

Methods: A community service was conducted from June-August 2023 by Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Faculty of Dental Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, in collaboration with Yayasan Mahameru-Surabaya, Universitas Airlangga Dental Hospital. The objective was to provide oral health education, screening and tooth extraction to HIV patients, member of Yayasan Mahameru Surabaya. Tooth extractions was done by staffs and residents, telemedicine follow-up was conducted seven days post-extraction. A satisfaction survey utilizing semi-quantitative questionnaires was done to evaluate the patients' experiences with the service.

Results: Forty-five HIV patients screened and 16 patients receiving tooth extraction. The results of the survey showed that patients were satisfied with this community service activities. Questionnaire result: ease of access to health provider (50%), ease in obtaining service (68%) patient safety during treatment (81,25%) and sufficient facility (75%).

Conclusion: Community service in providing free tooth extraction for HIV patients is an effective method to ease patients accessing dental services and patients showed good satisfaction with dental services.

KEYWORDS

HIV patients; oral health; tooth extraction.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Health is a human right that must be accessed by all individuals, regardless of social and economic status or health conditions (Nunes et al., 2017). Throughout the world, HIV/AIDS has become a global health problem affecting millions of people. One important aspect of health that is often overlooked in HIV patients is oral health (Tian et al., 2023). Oral

infections and dental disease are often serious problems for those living with HIV and can affect quality of life, as well as causing pain and discomfort (Lomeli-Martínez et al., 2022).

In this context, community service activities are an effective tool in meeting the health necessity of underprivileged communities, including HIV patients. Free tooth extraction is a form of community service

that can provide significant benefits for HIV patients who experience oral health problems (La Patilaiya et al., 2021; Nachega et al., 2016).

Community service in this context includes collaboration between medical personnel, non-medical personnel and non-government organizations to provide necessary dental care to patients suffering from HIV at no cost. In addition, this approach can also increase awareness about the importance of oral health in the HIV-afflicted population and reduce the stigma often associated with this condition (Doughty et al., 2023). It is hoped that by involving communities in the provision of low-cost and effective oral dental services, we can improve the quality of life for HIV-infected patients, reduce unnecessary pain and suffering, and provide a positive example of the importance of inclusive and sustainable public health care.

This article aims to detail the impact of community service carried out by Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Faculty of Dental Medicine Universitas Airlangga / Universitas Airlangga Dental Hospital and volunteers from Yayasan Mahameru-Surabaya, a non-governmental organization focusing empowering people with HIV, in providing free tooth extraction services for patients suffering from HIV on the patient's quality of life and oral health, and to present evaluation of patient's satisfaction to this community service.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A community service was conducted by the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Faculty of Dental Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, in collaboration with Yayasan Mahameru-Surabaya started from June-August 2023.

Oral health education and screening to 45 HIV patients who are the member of Yayasan Mahameru Surabaya and free tooth extraction services to 16 eligible HIV patients in need. The community service took place at Universitas Airlangga Dental Hospital,

where staffs and residents of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Study Programme performed the extractions. Subsequently, telemedicine follow-up was conducted seven days post-extraction.

A semi-quantitative survey was administered to evaluate the patient's satisfaction with the service using questionnaire filled out by the patients online. This method can measure and describe data regarding demographic data, ease of access to health provider, ease in obtaining dental service, patient safety during treatment and sufficiency of the facility. The answers were then categorized into 5-points Likert scale (1: very satisfied; 2: satisfied; 3: neutral; 4: dissatisfied; 5: very dissatisfied). The data was then described to identify patients percentage satisfied to the service.

3. RESULTS

This Community Service activity was carried out by conducting free tooth extraction on 16 HIV patients at Universitas Airlangga Dental Hospital. Patient follow up evaluation revealed only one patient with complications. The results of the survey showed that patients were satisfied with this community service activities. Demographic data of patients receiving tooth extraction presented in table 1.

Male patients were 62.5% and female patients were 37.5%. Educational status of HIV patients in this program varies from elementary school graduate to bachelor, highest percentage in high school graduate with 68.75%. From 16 HIV patients treated, 50% of them were unmarried. Most of the patients are of unknown occupation with a percentage of 50% which followed with self-employed patients with 25%. (table 1).

The total number of patients was 16 patients. Based on the table above, patients feel it is very easy to get dental services (50%), but there were patients who find it difficult to get dental services (6.25%). With the community service program, almost all patients felt it was very easy to get dental services (68.75%). The RSGM facilities used as a place for

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics (n=16)

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	10	62.5%
Female	6	37.5%
Educational Status		
Elementary School	1	6.25%
High School Graduate	11	68.75%
Diploma	1	6.25%
Bachelor	3	18.75%
Marital Status		
Unmarried	8	50%
Married	5	31.25%
Divorced	3	18.75%
Occupation		
Student	1	6.25%
Self-Employed	4	25%
Housewife	3	18.75%
Others	8	50%

Table 2. Survey Results

Variable(s)	Patients Percentage Satisfied to the Service				
	Scale				
	5	4	3	2	1
Ease of access to health provider	50%	12.5%	18.75%	12.5%	6.25%
Ease in obtaining dental services	68%	12.5%	18.75%	0%	0%
Patients safety during procedures	81.25%	6.25%	12.5%	0%	0%
Sufficiency of facility	75%	12.5%	6.25%	0%	0%

dental services for this event were considered very good (75%). The level of patient safety during treatment (81.25%) presented in table 2.

4. DISCUSSION

Among 16 patients undergone tooth extraction, only showed post extraction pain that indicate delayed healing, as a study showed that no difference is found regarding the complication rate post-minor oral surgery in HIV-positive patients (Nakagawa et al., 2021)

The results showed that HIV patients have greater obstacles in obtaining dental services compared to other groups. This is because there is an unfavorable stigma towards HIV patients. Apart from that, a research at a community health center in Bandung, the negative stigma towards HIV patients was even shared by service providers at the relevant community health center (Wilandika, 2019). Another research conducted in Medan wrote that the

discrimination and negative stigma faced by HIV patients from dental services was high enough that some experienced psychological impacts (Hasibuan et al., 2020).

In the second survey responds, it could be concluded that more than half of the patients feel the ease to get dental services by this event (68%). As discussed before, Having a dedicated oral health service for people living with HIV/AIDS can help them feel more comfortable and at ease because a dedicated oral health service for people living with HIV/AIDS can help ensure that they have access to the care they need (Feng et al., 2020). Nevertheless, due to the elaborate screening and examinations before the treatment phase, comprehensive medical history had been obtained and reviewed which help to identify patients who may require treatment plans adapted to their individual medical state.

A dedicated oral health service for patients living with HIV/AIDS can provide specialized care that takes

into account their unique medical needs. Moreover, research showed that patients living with HIV/AIDS may feel more comfortable and trusting of a dedicated oral health service that is specifically designed to meet their needs. This can help them feel more at ease during dental procedures and more likely to seek out regular dental care (Robbins, 2017). The service providers were able to be polite, friendly, and provide a sense of security to HIV patients. Based on the patient's satisfaction survey, most of the HIV patients were satisfied with the services provided in community service activities.

The results also showed that three-quarters of the patients was very satisfied of the facilities provided by Universitas Airlangga Dental Hospital as the venue of this community service. Furthermore having a dedicated oral health service for people living with HIV/AIDS can help ensure that they have access to specialized care that takes into account their unique medical needs. This can help them feel more comfortable and at ease during dental procedures and more likely to seek out regular dental care, in accordance with the findings of a research conducted in Canada (Feng et al., 2020).

Several studies have evaluated access to and satisfaction with dental services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and the results suggest that overall participants are satisfied with the services (Frederick Lambert et al., 2017; Robbins, 2017). Poor oral health of people living with HIV/AIDS was mainly influenced by sociodemographic factors and use and satisfaction with service (Souza et al., 2018). A client satisfaction survey for HIV/AIDS dental care services conducted in rural Texas found that health care organizations that solicit information about client satisfaction, including client concerns, are better prepared to make positive changes (Mgbere et al., 2017). A recent study used a qualitative approach and involved patients, doctors, and nurses in evaluating satisfaction-driven innovation of dental care facilities,

which can help improve the quality of dental care for HIV patients (Tran et al., 2019).

5. CONCLUSION

Community service in providing free tooth extraction services for HIV patients is an effective method to ease patients accessing dental services. This program inspires collaboration among various parties in society, increases awareness about the importance of oral health care, and helps address often overlooked health problems in the HIV-positive population.

The results of satisfaction survey of the oral community service to patients with HIV suggests that a dedicated oral health care program can help HIV patients obtain proper dental care and showed good satisfaction with dental services. Therefore it is recommended to do similar collaboration community services providing holistic care to patients with HIV in the future.

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