

Team of mobile specialists of geronto-stomatologist

Mobilni timovi specijalista gerontostomatologa

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More than 10 years ago, the employees of the dental polyclinic started implementing the project by going to homes for the elderly and infirm. The reason for starting the project was the great demand for treatment, diagnosis and therapy in the oral cavity in the elderly population who were immobile or less mobile. The name of such a project was “oral health of the third age”. After a certain time, the very goal of establishing a mobile dental team was realized. In April 2018, co-financing of the project was signed by the City of Zagreb, the name of which is “Mobile specialist geronto-dental team”. The mobile geronto-dental team consists of a doctor of dental medicine-specialist, a nurse and a driver. The team of doctors of dental medicine-specialists includes an oral surgeon, a prosthetist and an oral medic. We also add a vehicle to the dental team, in which there is complete dental equipment for providing dental services. The planning of visits to homes for the elderly and the infirm is done by a coordinator who communicates directly with the head nurses of the homes and arranges the arrival of a mobile geronto-dental team.

The purpose of the mobile geronto-dental team is to help and facilitate the elderly population who are unable to visit a dentist in the complete rehabilitation of the oral cavity.

The method of work begins with a visit to a nursing home, where anamnesis and oral examinations of an elderly person are performed and their oral status is determined. After the examination of an elderly person, oral or written instructions on oral hygiene of the oral cavity and/or instructions on the hygiene of dental prostheses are given. For nursing home users with severe psychophysical conditions (dementia, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s), oral hygiene instructions are given in written form to the staff of the nursing home or to the family of the nursing home user. After oral examinations, a schedule of rehabilitation of the oral cavity of nursing home users is carried out according to a specialist mobile dental team. The average number of teeth in elderly people is 15%, while toothless people have 41.6%. The percentage of users who need prosthetic rehabilitation is 49.9%. In the oral cavity, we have a large percentage of oral diseases in nursing home users.

The role of the mobile geronto-dental team is to regularly check the oral health of nursing home users due to the specificity of the general health status of the elderly population.