

Report WG « Aging population »

Meeting Munich airport 2nd of March 2017

Participants: S.Dartevelle, A.Spialek, B.Griffa, A.Mahinson (new member), E. -J. Otterbach, U. Matthesius (phone), Ph. Rusca

The aging population represents an important challenge for all actors in that field. The FDI WG had an important meeting in Lucerne last year and a publication of the outcomes will be published soon. This conference has also decided to start some surveys to have precise data of aging population. A special session, “Oral health for aging population”, will be held during AWDC in Madrid in August 2017.

In the general discussion in the WG each participant pointed out some specific aspects in his home country:

- In Italy there is a trend to improve the knowledge of dentist by conferences
- In Poland undergraduate curriculum and CE are under construction
- In Israel geriatric patients are treated in private and public dental clinics. There is a need for post graduate program in geriatric dentistry.
- In Germany an undergraduate curriculum is not yet included. Dentists do the main work, nurses often refuse training due to lack of time. There are many clips on YouTube showing basic handling. The publication “Wissen kompakt” edited by Springer Medizin and Freier Verband Deutscher Zahnärzte could be translated in English and presented on ERO Website .
- In UK the situation is similar as in other European countries. Many residents in institutions are still edentulous.
- In Switzerland all 4 universities have included geriatric dentistry in basic education and there is a large offer in CE. The National Dental Association promotes a screening for all patients entering in an institution.

In a larger discussion it appears that there is a very different approach of this item depending of financing mode of dentistry in each member country. It is also very complicate to define scientific criteria to treat our aging population. A psychological background is very important to find an individual, optimal treatment.

During next WG meeting in Geneva some recommendations will be discussed and presented to ERO plenary.

Ph. Rusca 19th of March 2017