

Opportunities for a Future Career in Periodontics: A Road Map for the Future

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ABSTRACT:

A solid career plan is vital since it provides a road map for the future. Periodontics is not exempt from the complexity of circumstances influencing the decision to pursue a vocation. Periodontics is a dynamic field that encompasses complex treatment planning and a vast array of treatment techniques ranging from traditional to cutting-edge therapies. It is a specialised specialty of dentistry that offers both tooth preservation and implant-based tooth replacement. This article's objective is to provide an overview of several periodontist career options. Numerous and diverse career opportunities exist in periodontics, allowing periodontists to enjoy a professionally fulfilling and financially stable existence. The profession of periodontics appears to have an exciting and gratifying future, but without significant work and obstacles, this is not likely to occur. However, periodontics is not a static field; it continues to change, hence providing periodontists with ample employment prospects.

Keywords: Career, opportunities, periodontics, pharmaceuticals

INTRODUCTION:

A comprehensive career plan is essential since it serves as a road map for the future. Complex considerations influence the selection of each job path, including Dentistry is no different. It becomes tough to select the optimal solution that satisfies both passion and financial needs. When deciding on a vocation, many factors must be considered, including

one's own skills and weaknesses, interests, desires, and willingness, as well as the financial means to complete a potentially lengthy period of training.

Other reasons include the nature of the job required in a particular vocation, the availability of good employment possibilities, the work environment, the monetary benefits, and the interpersonal motivations.[1]

HISTORY:

The specialty of periodontics has a lengthy history that dates back to prehistoric times, as evidenced by written records from numerous civilizations. In their historical records, all well-established cultures have highlighted gingival and periodontal disorders and stressed their treatments and prevention techniques. W. Riggs appears to have been the first person to limit his practise to periodontics, and hence can be regarded as the first expert in this subject. [2] In India, Dr. G. B. Shankwalkar planted the germ for a graduate programme in periodontics, which was then passed on to a number of distinguished professors who shaped the field into what it is today. The quick advancement in the area of periodontology is indebted to all those pioneers who were the legendary gurus who blazed a route that subsequent generations followed to achieve the profession's current prominent reputation.

PERIODONTICS AS A CAREER AND LIFESTYLE:

Periodontics is a dynamic field that encompasses complex treatment planning and a vast array of treatment techniques ranging from traditional to cutting-edge therapies. It is a comprehensive speciality that provides chances in academia, clinical practise that is evidence-based and motivated by solid scientific knowledge, and opens the door to fresh fields of study. Periodontics is the foundation of dentistry, as all other specialties revolve around it in terms of maintaining healthy teeth so that other procedures can be administered. It is a unique branch of dentistry that allows both the preservation of teeth and their replacement with implants. Overall, periodontics is a demanding speciality that is constantly evolving, rewarding, and has manageable working hours. [3]

Career options in periodontics: a road map to success

In its current description of periodontists' responsibilities and scope of practise, the American Academy of Periodontology defines a periodontist as a dentist who specialises in gum disease. Periodontal disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as dental implant insertion.

[4] Additionally, periodontists are masters in treating mouth inflammation. In addition to dentistry school, periodontists complete three more years of instruction in these fields. They are conversant with the most up-to-date methods for diagnosing and treating periodontal disease.

Additionally, periodontists are educated to do cosmetic periodontal operations. As an aesthetically pleasing smile has become a significant component of periodontal and implant therapy over the past few decades, many surgical procedures have been developed to improve aesthetic outcome and functional restoration. [5] It is the role of the dental team, specifically the periodontist, to comprehend optimal aesthetics and to be able to provide the patient with effective therapy. Numerous and varied opportunities exist in periodontics, affording periodontists a professionally satisfying and financially secure living .

Private clinical practise

As a doctor specialising in periodontal disorders, the job of the periodontist has evolved. He/she is now a plastic surgeon, a smile designer, an implantologist, and a competent health care provider who improves general health through periodontal health management. Clinical periodontics encompasses a variety of practise settings, including general private practise, specialist practise in dentistry clinics, polyclinics, and multispecialty hospital settings.

As part of specialised clinical practise, a periodontist is trained in the following areas: The variety of clinical choices provides a periodontist with the flexibility to select and plan his career.

Government industry

A periodontist is eligible for a variety of government professions on a global scale, allowing for a comfortable and secure work environment. The Indian government provides numerous employment prospects for dentists in both rural and urban areas. The Indian government offers work opportunities in a variety of fields.

Defense services

The defense/armed forces are a highly organised force that assigns opportunities for specialists in the army, navy, and air force. Serving the nation as a periodontist/dental officer is not only a source of honour, but also comes with a number of lucrative benefits that can help establish a secure future.

In addition to financial incentives, the defence services offer low-cost or no-cost medical and life insurance, retirement plan alternatives, housing allowances, and paid vacations. A privilege of a serving periodontist officer would be the promotion of periodontal health that indirectly improves general health.

Dental product consulting

Working in the advisory and research divisions of pharmaceuticals and other industries is a further career potential. Companies that develop oral health-related goods and biomaterials utilised in periodontics.

Dental insurance

Numerous insurance firms may employ dentists in various capacities, such as claims review, scientific analysis and research, and administrative duties. Highlevel administrative positions may at times require more than a dental degree and a history of clinical practise.

Healthcare committees

The Central and State Government schemes are the model healthcare facility providers for central government employees and retirees due to their vast number of beneficiaries and unrestricted approach to providing healthcare. As a board member, a periodontist can examine and process dental claims, determine recipient eligibility, and monitor them for malpractice and fraud.

Stratification model

One paradigm for the future of periodontics is patient stratification, which allows patients to be treated based on the severity of their gum disease.

The intricacy of managing the case and its systemic repercussions.[7] The framework of stratificationbased patient management necessitates the integration of periodontists, general dentists, and other selected experts into a multidimensional network. Digitalization and the creation of data portals that facilitate the implementation of protocols for the handling of less predictable circumstances make this possible.

Group design

It is essential that a periodontist continue to investigate and expand his/her function not just in diverse elements of healthcare, but also by adapting to multiple professional responsibilities necessitating organisational collaborative networks, so altering the profile of the entire profession. The future of the specialty will likely feature a higher integration of periodontics with medicine, as well as a stronger integration of periodontics with specific segments of dentistry to form a group model. [8]

Teleperiodontics

This is a revolutionary concept that combines the innovative telecommunications technology with the study of periodontics. This new profession will have a limitless amount of potential, as access to an expert will be provided at the grassroots level, hence boosting the distribution of therapy and information to rural and disadvantaged communities.[9] These models, when properly incorporated into our working systems with government assistance, will not only give periodontists with more career prospects, but they will also make the management of multidisciplinary clinical settings more predictable.

The profession requires visionary practitioners to expand current knowledge and incorporate modern advancements in order to not only improve patient treatment but also increase the periodontist's value in healthcare delivery.[7]

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES:

According to an old African saying, "Smooth seas do not create skilled sailors," a periodontist's professional development and career cycle would be fraught with many problems and obstacles. It is unfortunate that the majority of undergraduate students find periodontics dull and uninteresting, given that they do not have much clinical experience in their curriculum during their undergraduate years beyond manual scaling. They are rarely able to see or participate in intricate periodontal surgical operations and typically lack knowledge of interdisciplinary periodontics. [7] Therefore, the initial incentive to pursue periodontics as a postgraduate speciality is somewhat low.

Second, Christensen and Clayton highlighted an intriguing phenomena known as "innovator's dilemma"[8], in which general dentists have taken over the majority of periodontal care owing to emerging technologies and methods that are getting increasingly streamlined. It is puzzling for a periodontist that the majority of his/her specialist work is performed by a general practitioner who has acquired some level of competence by attending basic courses. The proliferation of dental clinics and overpopulation of dentists in large cities would further exacerbate a periodontist's difficulties, as patients will prefer to visit the nearest dentist.

Every year, a big number of postgraduate periodontists graduate, making it increasingly difficult to find employment options for all of them.[9] Another significant hurdle is financial insufficiency, which prevents periodontists from establishing their own practises or purchasing equipment.

As correctly noted by McGuire and Scheyer, "if periodontics is to remain the preeminent speciality for the diagnosis and treatment of periodontal disorders and the replacement of missing teeth, we must face and effectively overcome numerous new problems." [10]

CONCLUSION:

The profession of periodontics appears to have an exciting and gratifying future, but this is unlikely to occur without significant work and obstacles. [7] One of periodontics' biggest qualities is because it is not a static field; rather, it continues to evolve and refocus based on breakthroughs and advancements in modern research in related fields. With the paradigm change in treatment choices and the incorporation of implantology as its forte, periodontists will have enough prospects for employment. It will occur at the conclusion of the beginning as opposed to the beginning of the end.

Conflicts of interest

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