

# Improving the integrity of caregivers' delivery of oral cancer care

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## Objective This project aims

This article aims to improve the accuracy and consistency of oral care for cancer patients in intensive care. Due to side effects of treatment and immunosuppression, these patients are prone to complications like dry mouth, mucositis, and infections, which can hinder treatment effectiveness if not properly addressed.

## Results

Standardized care and continuous assessment improved adherence to oral care steps among nurses. Patient feedback indicated less discomfort and improved breath odor. Caregivers reported greater confidence, reducing uncertainty in clinical practice.

## Methods The project addressed

The study observed clinical practices and patient acceptance of oral care. A standardized protocol was implemented, including alcohol-free mouthwashes, herbal rinses, moisturizing products, localized massage, and aromatherapy for therapeutic and relaxation benefits.

Pain relief medications were given for significant discomfort or lesions. Regular discussions among ICU, dental, and oncology teams ensured care quality.

## Conclusions

Consistent and comprehensive oral care is essential for quality ICU care. Standardized protocols, interdisciplinary collaboration, and empathetic care alleviate both physical and psychological stress. Future efforts should focus on developing assessment tools and educational strategies to improve care.

Oral care should be recognized as integral to cancer nursing, with ongoing education and training for caregivers to enhance patient comfort, treatment adherence, and recovery. This approach can guide ICU practice and policy in oncology care.

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