

An applied social psychological reflection on

Dr. Sophie Dartevelle's presentation:
"Evidence based measures for keeping mutilated and rehabilitated dentitions healthy and preventing further tooth loss"

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Oral Health = Teamwork



koninklijke nederlandse maatschappij
tot bevordering der tandheelkunde



For optimal lifelong Oral Health: Promotion and Prevention are keys!

- The fact that people are living longer worldwide poses a burden on health care systems
- Maintaining lifelong oral health reduces individual health suffering, due to pain, speaking problems, eating problems, and social problems
- Oral health and its impact on general health and well being must be promoted for today's older adults, and for the future it can be prevented largely through changing individual's (oral) health behaviors

Oral Health and Ageing: a neglected field

- There is a certain professional or 'supervised neglect' regarding the 'optimal care', including oral health treatment of elderly...?
- Is it because of a lack of knowledge among (oral) health professionals of 'behavioral change' interventions?
- Or because of ineffective implementation of preventative interventions and maintenance protocols...?
- "Oral health remains a low priority..."

To promote healthy ageing:



To promote healthy ageing, it is important that:

- The practice of the development of oral health promotion interventions still needs input on the important issue of target group segmentation or tailoring
- Interventions to reinforce prevention throughout the life course, and to change 'oral health behaviour' should be based on thorough research among aging people on:
 - Attitudes (what do I think is important for me?)
 - Social norms (what does my family or my friend think of it?)
 - Knowledge (what are the consequences of poor oral health?)
 - Capability (can I do it by myself?)
- Repeated and tailored oral hygiene education + instruction are keys

Thank you

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