

Dental diseases and therapeutic methods in Islamic civilization

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Abstract:

Background and Purpose: Dental knowledge in Islamic civilization was not considered a separate discipline. Islamic physicians did a lot of research about the nature of teeth, diseases, causes, and treatments. They described precisely different dental diseases under various titles, such as decay, resizing and color, fracture, wear, perforation, corrosion and sluggishness. They tried to explain the causes of each one.

Methods and Materials: This research is based on ancient medical manuscripts. The most important of these sources are *Ferdos al-Hikmah* (Ali-ibn- Sahl Rabban al-Tabari), *Al Qanoon Fi al-Tibb* (Ibn Sina), *Kamel al-Sana'a* (Ali ibn Abbas Maqusi), and *Alhavi Fi-al-Tibb* (Muhammad ibn Zakariya al-Razi). Along with that, the works of Jorjani and the *Moalejat al-Buqratiyya* of Ahmad Tabari and Muslim physicians up to the beginning of the Safavid period (reign: 907-1135 AH) have also been used. However, the first-hand content is found in four first sources. The research method in this paper is descriptive and, it was tried to match the findings and achievements of Muslim dentistry with modern dentistry - to the extent possible.

Results: Muslim physicians have considered prophylaxis prior to treatment, so they have advised using mouthwash, toothbrushing, not to eat some foods like pickles, sweets, cold and hot meals, to rub oil on teeth to maintain health and improve oral health. Muslim physicians believed that many dental illnesses are caused due to body temperament and gum dampness, thus prescribed drugs to change the temperament and dry the gum. Drug treatments, winding, dripping, cupping, and prostate drugs were used in chewing or dermatological drugs that were applied to the teeth and were used as a fusion and placement. In addition to the use of medicine, physicians used special dental instruments for treatment. Tooth filling, restoration of rotten teeth and broken teeth, stiffening of lacerated teeth and scaling were common methods for dental treatment.

Conclusion: The method of prevention and treatment of unhealthy teeth in traditional medicine, which was prescribed by herbal and animal medicine, indicates the identification of herbs and their efficacy in the treatment of diseases. Therefore, applied drugs after confirmation can be used in the modern dentistry.

Keywords: Muslim dentistry, Dental diseases, Factors and methods of treatment

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