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Emergency preparedness!

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Dental Assistants, Administrative Staff, and Registered Nurses play a vital role in ensuring the safety of our patients. Understanding basic peri-operative assessment and management of oral surgical patients is essential and even more paramount when dealing with medically challenged patients. The need to screen and monitor patients for underlying medical conditions prior to sedation and analgesia will provide safe practices of sedation and analgesia in dentistry. In addition, emphasis on proper medical assessment intra-operatively and post-operatively will be reviewed and discussed. Dealing with emergency situations involves a leadership role. Optimizing your leadership skills can positively influence both patient and healthcare organizational outcomes. Effective leadership involves clinical preparation. An overview of medical equipment will be addressed to ensure familiarity which will support safe practices. The following topics will be discussed: pre-operative assessment - recognizing medically compromised patients; identifying roles in an anesthetic emergency; emergency preparedness: how to use your emergency equipment. The main objectives are: to recognize medically compromised patients pre-operatively; to demonstrate a thorough understanding of head-to-toe assessments; to describe roles of medical assessment intra-operatively and post-operatively in avoiding medical occurrences; to identify a leadership role within an emergency situation; and to demonstrate an understanding of proper use of medical equipment.