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**Students' Evaluation of Dental Postings to Nursing
Homes: A Pilot Study**

*Weiqiang Loke, Hilary PY Thean,
Department of Restorative Dentistry, National University of
Singapore, Singapore.

To complement the lectures on geriatrics and special needs 11 students were posted either individually or in pairs to the dental clinic of 2 nursing homes. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of a nursing home posting on a group of dental students at the end of their first clinical year. Students spent half a day with the nursing home volunteer dentist where they had opportunities to observe and assist in dental treatment and management of patients. At the end of the session, they were asked to complete a questionnaire. 50% of them agreed they did not have the confidence to treat patients with special needs. At the same time 70% of them strongly agreed that it was essential to be proficient in treating such patients. All of them found the posting meaningful and wanted to know more about this area of dentistry. 64% of them strongly agreed they could benefit from more of such postings. Nursing home dental clinic postings were positively received by students in this pilot study and is recommended to be included into the formal undergraduate dental curriculum as part of the training in geriatric and special needs dentistry.

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