July 9, 2019

Dear Editor,

We are submitting a protocol module entitled "Oral health assessment by lay personnel for older adults" for consideration for publication in JoVE.

As the world's population of older adults continues to increase over the next couple of decades, caregivers need a broader set of tools to meet their diversity of health needs. Oral health is an oft-overlooked component of health. Indeed, oral health is key to overall health, with individuals diagnosed with Type II diabetes more likely to develop periodontitis, an inflammatory gum disease. So, too, persons with periodontitis are more likely to develop Type II diabetes. Thus, health care providers and family members alike should be equipped to evaluate oral health regularly, quickly, and comprehensively. Though our protocol is suitable for adults of all ages, it is intended for elders who are more prone to inflammation and chronic diseases that are interlinked with oral health.

In sum, the goal of our protocol is to enable all caregivers – health care providers and lay caregivers – to assess oral health status of older adults across time. We desire this to spark proactive discussions and collaborations among dental health professionals, geriatricians, nursing staff and family for the health benefit of their patients and loved ones.

Your favorable consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cameron B. Jeter

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