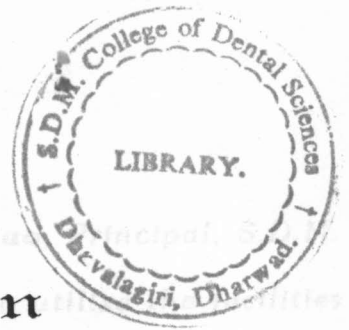


CARDIAC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR DENTAL PATIENTS



Library Dissertation

Submitted to the Department of
Oral Medicine Diagnosis & Radiology

*in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of*

MASTER OF DENTAL SURGERY
in

ORAL MEDICINE DIAGNOSIS & RADIOLOGY

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Introduction:

It is true that the dental surgeons themselves do not deal with the cardiac diseases or their management but, it must be realized that increased functional demands are placed on the cardiovascular system in the course of the dental treatment. Evaluation of patients with cardiac diseases for anaesthesia & surgery faces dental surgeons with increasing frequency as both the population at risk for cardiac diseases & no. of operations performed continue to rise. The risk of harmful cardiovascular events in the perioperative period is most likely to occur due to impairment of cardiac function by the altered metabolic state associated with the operative procedure & ability of the patient's heart to tolerate these changes.

Disturbance of myocardial status can result from increased oxygen demand, arrhythmias, decreased oxygen supply due to hypotension etc. Studies of patients evaluated in preparation for non-cardiac surgery by Goldman L, Caldera D.L & Wussbaum et.al³¹ in 1977 reports 10% of patients over the age of 40 as having prior myocardial infarction.

An estimate of the potential risk from surgery for the patient can be obtained from history, physical examination, E.C.G., chest x-ray & standard examination of blood & urine. Cardiac risk assessment deals with assessment of the anatomical, physiological & pathological status of the cardiovascular system of the dental patients. It determines whether there are any abnormalities as such & whether the presence of these abnormalities is likely to lead to or predispose to the occurrence of cardiovascular complications-intraoperatively or post operatively.

It enables the dentist to decide

- (1) as to whether the risks are minor or whether to defer the dental procedures till the pathologic status gets converted to normal.*
- (2) to take precautions as necessary to prevent the occurrence of the cardiac complications in the patient. Cardiac risk assessment depends on correct diagnosis of the cardiac status of the patient.*