



Connecticut State Dental Association

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Southington, CT, March 13, 2008—The Connecticut State Dental Association held a continuing education course for over 400 licensed dentists titled “Will You Still Need me? Will You Still Treat Me When I’m 64?” at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. This course is a part of the CSDA’s continuing efforts to increase awareness and education about oral health for aging adults in collaboration with the Department of Public Health’s “Task Force on Oral Health of Older Adults.”

The lecture was given by Linda C. Niessen, DMD, MPH, and patient care provider at the VA North Texas Health Care System. The course focused on important topics such as age-related oral changes, the correlation between oral health and systemic health, implications of common medications on oral health, and the problems of oral care for nursing and home residents.

Many aging adults do not have dental insurance. Currently, Medicare is not designed to reimburse for routine dental care. Twenty-three percent of 65 to 74 year olds have severe gum disease, and 1.65 million people are living in a long term care facility where dental care is problematic. There is substantial evidence supporting the link between poor oral health and conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and stroke.

The CSDA is a non profit membership organization that represents 87% of CT dentists. For more information about the CSDA, please visit the CSDA web site at www.csda.com.

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