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## OPTIMIZATION OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR DENTAL DISEASES IN CHILDREN IN THE CONDITIONS OF WARTIME IN THE KHARKIV REGION

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**Introduction:** Maintaining a child's dental health is a global task of primary prevention. According to modern views on this problem, the factors that lead to the development of dental pathology and the level of risk for the patient should be identified at first. Based on these data, taking into account the child's age, the doctor is able to make an individual plan of preventive measures. However, because the provoking factors may change, the child needs regular visits to control and correction of the prescriptions. Currently, there is a situation in the region where most patients are limited in their ability to visit a dentist. That is why it is important to provide an opportunity to receive support as part of the primary prevention of dental diseases.

**The aim:** Optimization of individual preventive measures by identifying and eliminating the factors of dental pathology in children of the Kharkiv region during wartime.

**Materials and methods:** Individual consultations on the condition of the oral cavity using video from the devices available to and the selection of preventive measures were conducted for primary patients. Also for children, who received treatment at the Pediatric Dentistry and Implantology Department of KhNMU before the beginning of hostilities. A total of 28 children aged 2 to 10 were consulted.

Because patients were unable to visit the dentist for various reasons, the communication between the patient and the doctor was carried out on distance. Online consultations for patients were held to determine the factors of dental pathology development. The questionnaires used were created in the form of Google forms and developed taking into account changes in the environment and living conditions of children due to the hostilities in the Kharkiv region.

**Results:** The consultations provided information about the ability to perform oral hygiene care and about the availability and types of hygiene tools and items. Factors such as changes in diet and the possibility and duration of being outdoors were not neglected. On the basis of these data, new and adjusted previously recommended individual plans for the prevention of dental diseases were made. Parents were also instructed on how to determine their child's oral hygiene, explained the role of bad habits, and provided links to useful online resources.

**Conclusions:** Prevention has always been a significant part of the work of a pediatric dentist. First of all, given the age aspect, preventive measures need to be monitored and corrected, especially in the period of childhood. In wartime, when direct visits to dental clinics are quite limited, non-standard approaches to doctor-patient communication are a solution to the situation and allow to solve a number of issues that at first glance seem unattainable.

**KEY WORDS:** preventive measures, dental diseases, children.