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## **DENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN - RESIDENTS OF FRONTLINE TERRITORIES**

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In the current conditions of Ukraine's state of war, which has lasted for more than two years, the field of health care is one of the basic components of both ensuring the vital activities of society and ensuring the protection of the population, including children.

The recommendations of the WHO, highlighted in the resolution on oral health, adopted in 2021 at the 74th session of the World Health Assembly, as well as in the political declaration of the World Dental Federation and the United Nations, confirm the existence of dental care, as it should be integral part of the programs to combat non-communicable diseases and that the provision of oral health care services should be provided within the framework of programs to ensure universal access to health care services.

Dental care for the population of Ukraine is provided in the public and private sectors, which in recent years, starting from 2019, have undergone significant changes. In fact, it remained only at the secondary and tertiary levels, which not only reduces the population's access to dental services, but also causes the lack of control over dental health, late patients seeking medical help and the increase in dental morbidity, as well as diseases and pathological conditions associated with diseases of the oral cavity [1, p. 12].

The National Health Service of Ukraine used to pay for routine and emergency dental care for children, but since April 2023, the funding has been stopped. Planned annual preventive dental examinations are not mandatory and are not carried out at the population level. At the same time, dental care is one of the types of medical care most demanded by the general population. Remains unsolved the problem of the presence of inflammatory processes in the oral cavity due to caries and its complications, the presence of pathogenic microflora, a decrease in local immunity of the oral cavity, and the participation of oral cavity diseases in the formation of a complex of general somatic pathologies, as well as the formation of resistant pathogenic strains of microorganisms [2, p.74, 3, p. 85].

In addition to deteriorating access to dental care, a number of other factors also affect the dental health of children. Namely, an increase in the level of anxiety due to the experience of air alarms, the consequences of explosions, etc. It has been scientifically proven that there is a direct correlation between a high level of anxiety in children and a decrease in the mineralizing potential of saliva, which determines the remineralizing properties of the oral fluid and, accordingly, the degree of mineralization and the structural integrity of the hard tissues of the teeth. A decrease in the enamel's resistance to the damaging action of acids contributes to the initiation of the demineralization process and causes carious damage to the teeth [4, p.33].

The relationship between anxiety levels and behavioral and alimentary risk factors for the occurrence and development of caries has also been proven. The level of anxiety negatively affected the frequency of brushing teeth and the choice of additional items and means for oral hygiene, as well as the type of child's diet [5, p.37].

Thus, according to the municipal dental institution of the city of Zaporizhzhia, in 2023, only 3% of parents went to the dentist for a preventive examination of their child, 14% for the purpose of planned rehabilitation of the child, among whom only caries was diagnosed in 0.7%, and in 13 .3% - caries and its complications. Overall, the ratio of teeth treated for complicated caries to those treated for uncomplicated caries is 0.75. More than 20% sought emergency dental care, while only 16.7% of children underwent complete rehabilitation. It is also worth noting that despite the statistical data regarding the significant prevalence of periodontal tissue diseases among the

children of Ukraine, the share of assistance in this regard did not exceed 3%. These data convincingly allow us to predict the growth of disability and the need for surgical, orthodontic and restorative orthopedic dental treatment of the population in the near future.

In such a situation, it is impossible to underestimate the initiative measures of dental associations to hold events on the occasion of the World Oral Health Day on March 20 and the International Day of Healthy Gums on May 12 aimed at spreading knowledge and skills and forming motivation for individual prevention of dental diseases.

Preservation of dental health is not only a medical, but also an important social problem of Ukraine, and in conditions of limited resources, maximum efforts should be directed to the development and implementation of programs for screening and prevention of dental diseases among children.

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