

State of the Art Statement

Question: Why is access to dental care for frail elderly people worse than for other groups?

Answer: The critical appraisal has identified that primary research is needed to look at the subject of access to dental care for frail elderly people in the UK. Similar barriers to accessing care for this group of people are still being reported today as they were twenty years ago. The barriers identified by UK studies conducted to date include:

- lack of nurse and carer oral healthcare training
- lack of regular, recorded assessment of elderly patients
- The elderly's perception that a dentist is needed only when there is a problem
- Limited treatment options
- Lack of cost effectiveness for the treating dentist

Further info: You can access the full critical appraisal relating to this question via our website www.dentistryresearch.org