

Dentist on Mars: Personal View

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Editorial

Dental emergencies and dental health needs to be dealt for Space travel. Humans live in micro-gravity and radiation for several months to years [1-4]. What if an astronaut has an abscess or fractures a tooth and jaw while on a mission? How can you maintain proper oral hygiene on long flights or beyond i.e., Mars? What affect does micro-gravity and radiation have on the oral cavity? My research and experimentation initiatives are the following: 1. Which dental procedures are compatible in micro-gravity? After research methods and proven techniques are established, training a selected crew member on the Space Shuttle or working on the ISS for an extended stay is necessary. Dental emergency protocol must be standardized in order to prevent a common post operative complication in space, which could be life threatening. It is imperative that we send an "Aeronautic dentist in space" to achieve first response protocol through experimentation. It is in the best interest for space travelers to have a "Dental Emergency and Maintenance Protocol System" available on board. Such a protocol is imperative for long dis-

tance space travel (Mars) or a working settlement including the ISS in space. This protocol has tremendous significance and reimbursement to all those crew members that may have a dental emergency. While strengthening the space program, the knowledge gained from micro-gravity and radiation tested procedures would help those who need dental emergency care in Third World Countries. Dental experimentation needs to be a priority for the safety of anyone who travels in space.

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