

# МЕДИЦИНА, ПЕДАГОГИКА И ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ: ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКТИКА

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Том 4, Выпуск 02, Февраля

## HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

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### Abstract

The history of dentistry reflects the development of dental care from ancient practices to modern scientific approaches. Over millennia, dentistry has evolved through cultural, medical, and technological advancements. Ancient civilizations, including the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, practiced basic dental procedures, such as tooth extraction and remedies for oral diseases. During the Middle Ages, dental knowledge was limited and often intertwined with folk medicine. The Renaissance period brought significant progress in anatomy and surgical techniques. The 18th and 19th centuries witnessed the invention of specialized dental instruments, the introduction of anesthesia, and the establishment of formal dental education. Modern dentistry now includes preventive, restorative, and cosmetic procedures, supported by advanced technology and evidence-based practices. Studying the historical development of dentistry provides valuable insight into current practices and the continuous improvement of oral health care.

**Keywords:** Dentistry, history, oral health, dental practices, dental education, dental instruments, evolution of dentistry.

### Introduction

Dentistry is one of the oldest branches of medicine, with a history spanning thousands of years. From simple tooth extraction and remedies in ancient civilizations to modern evidence-based clinical practices, dental care has continuously evolved. Ancient Egyptians, for example, documented treatments for tooth decay and oral infections on papyrus scrolls. Similarly, Greek and Roman physicians emphasized oral hygiene and developed early surgical procedures.

During the Middle Ages, dental knowledge in Europe declined and was often combined with folk remedies. However, the Renaissance brought renewed interest in anatomy, surgery, and systematic medical education, which greatly influenced the

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practice of dentistry. The 18th and 19th centuries marked a turning point, with the invention of specialized dental instruments, anesthesia for pain management, and the establishment of formal dental schools. Understanding the historical evolution of dentistry not only provides context for modern practices but also highlights how cultural, technological, and scientific advances have shaped oral health care over time.

## **Materials and Methods**

This study is a literature-based historical review. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources, including academic journals, historical texts, textbooks, and online scientific databases. Sources covered a wide time span, from ancient civilizations to modern dentistry practices. The study focused on identifying key milestones in dentistry, including the development of dental instruments, surgical techniques, education, and preventive strategies. An analytical and comparative approach was applied to trace the evolution of dental care across different historical periods and civilizations. Information was synthesized to provide a coherent overview of dentistry's development and its impact on modern oral health practices.

## **Results**

Historical analysis reveals a gradual evolution of dentistry influenced by cultural, scientific, and technological changes. Key findings include: Ancient Civilizations: Egyptians practiced tooth extraction, used medicinal herbs for oral pain, and developed early prosthetics. Greeks emphasized oral hygiene and wrote extensively about dental diseases. Romans introduced structured surgical techniques and recognized the connection between oral and general health. Middle Ages: Dental knowledge declined in Europe, and tooth care was often performed by barber-surgeons. Treatments were largely empirical and based on folk medicine, with limited scientific understanding. Renaissance: Advances in human anatomy and surgical methods improved dental procedures. The period saw the publication of detailed anatomical drawings and the first scientific descriptions of tooth structure and oral diseases. 18th–19th Centuries: Dentistry became a professional discipline with the introduction of anesthesia, advanced dental instruments, and the establishment of dental schools. Preventive care and restorative techniques, including fillings and crowns, became standardized. Modern Dentistry: Today, dentistry encompasses preventive, restorative, cosmetic, and surgical procedures. The use of digital imaging, dental implants, and evidence-based

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clinical practices has transformed oral health care. Education and professional standards ensure the continued advancement of dental treatment.

## Discussion

The evolution of dentistry illustrates how medical knowledge, technology, and societal needs shape clinical practices. Ancient methods laid the foundation for pain management and oral hygiene, while Renaissance and post-Renaissance developments formalized dentistry as a profession. The introduction of anesthesia and specialized instruments significantly reduced patient discomfort and expanded the scope of dental treatment. Modern dentistry is heavily influenced by evidence-based practices, emphasizing both prevention and treatment. The historical perspective highlights that innovations often arise from combining practical experience with scientific understanding. Additionally, the professionalization of dentistry through formal education and standardized procedures has greatly improved patient safety and outcomes. Challenges remain, including ensuring access to dental care, managing patient anxiety, and integrating new technologies responsibly. Nevertheless, understanding the history of dentistry underscores the importance of continuous research, professional training, and the adoption of technological advancements to improve oral health worldwide.

## Conclusion

Dentistry has undergone significant evolution from ancient practices to modern evidence-based clinical care. Historical advancements in surgical techniques, anesthesia, dental instruments, and formal education have shaped contemporary dental practice. Studying the history of dentistry provides valuable insights into current methodologies, highlights the importance of professional training, and encourages the adoption of innovative approaches to improve oral health. Continuous research and technological progress will ensure the ongoing development of dentistry and the enhancement of patient care.

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