

# Oral Screening within the general health check-up (VU neu)

The Austrian Example of an integrated practical  
approach

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- » Background
  - » Description of the programme
  - » Evaluation – some results

## Background

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- » Preventive medical check-up at no charges since 1974
  - » For all 18+
  - » At the general physician and special examination centers
  
- » 2005: Re-design of the screening-programme
  - » Consider advancements in medicine („state-of-the-art“)
  - » Evidence-based
  
- » Goals
  - » Early detection of main diseases like cancer, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases,...
  - » Promotion of a healthy life-style (smoking, alcohol, diet, physical activity)

# Components of the medical Checkup

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- » Questionnaire for the patient (Yes/No)
  - » Topics with a relation to oral health, e.g. smoking, diabetes
  - » Bleeding (when cleaning or eating) or does the tissue feel swollen
  - » loss of tissue (do you think your teeth got longer or the space between teeth got bigger)
  - » In case of a partial prostheses – did the fit change
  - » Problems with bad breath
- » Inspection of the oral cavity by GP
  - » Information material and workshops for general physicians (partly compulsory)
- » 2 Interventions, depending on „risk–assessment“
  - » Instruction on cleaning of teeth and interdentalium
  - » Referral to a „periodontal oriented dentist“
- » Recommended interval for screening: every 6 yrs

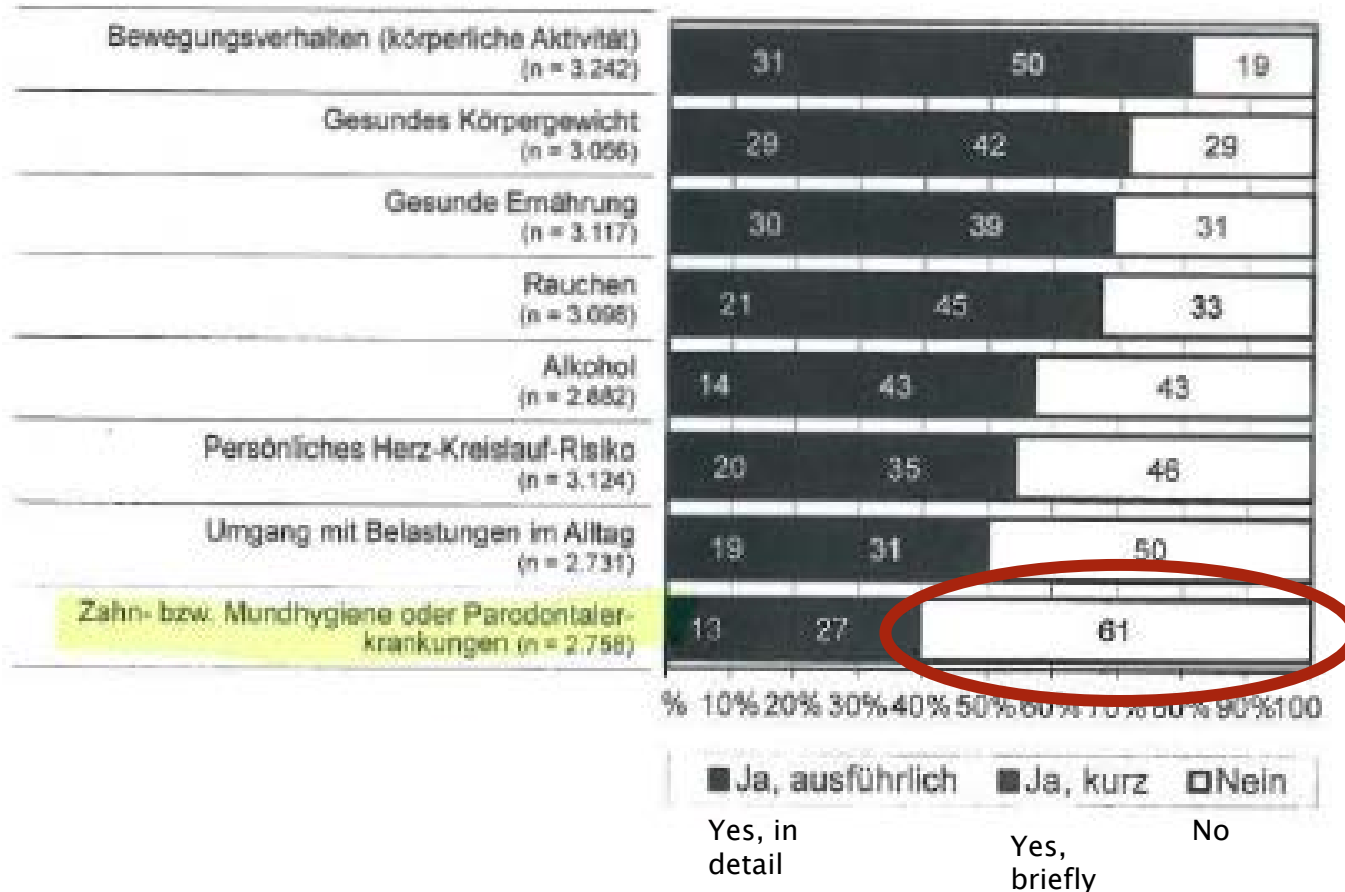
## Evaluation – some results

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- » Evaluation methods:
  - » Questionnaire for participants
  - » Questionnaire for general physicians
  - » Monitoring of diagnostic findings (pseudonymisiert)
  - » Analysis of other (outcome-)data from sickfunds
  - » Evidence based Health Care Analysis
  
- » Participation rate for VUneu:
  - » 2010: 12,5 % of the entitled population took part (women: 12,9 %; men: 12,0 %)
  - » Mean age of participants: 50 years
  - » 2002–2010: positive trend in participation

# Patients' questionnaire

» Did the GP talk with you about the following topics?



# GP questionnaire

## » General physicians' attitude regarding information/training

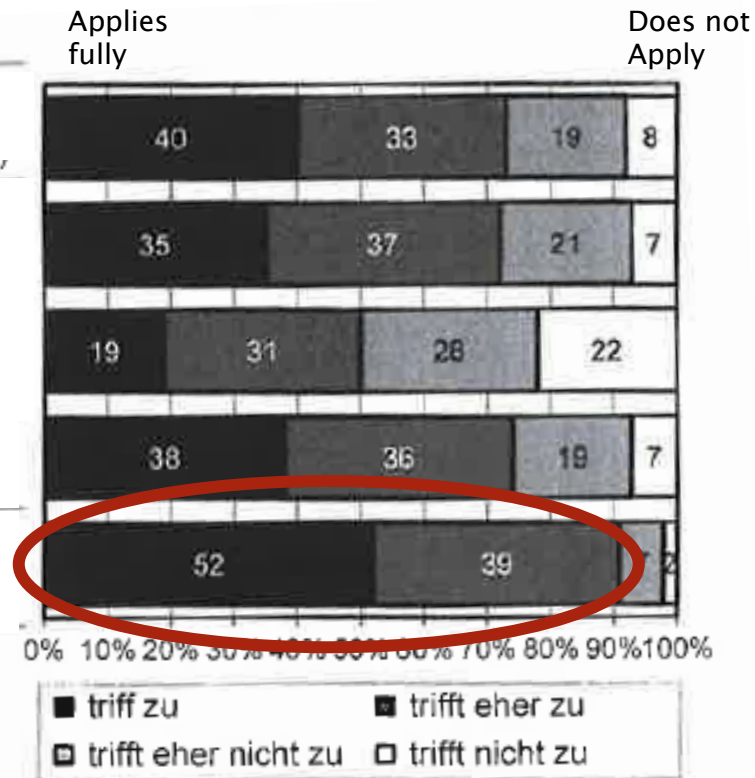
Because of my experience and my competencies I consider a further training not necessary (N=1.413)

A further training session is not necessary, because self-study is more efficient with respect to special contents of the screening-programme (N=1.377)

The new screening programme requires techniques which can't be acquired in trainings (e.g. communication skills, counseling (N=1.340)

Trainings for other topics are more important (N=1.346)

Overall, I consider myself adequately trained for the implementation of the new screening programme (N=1.385)



## Monitoring of diagnostic findings

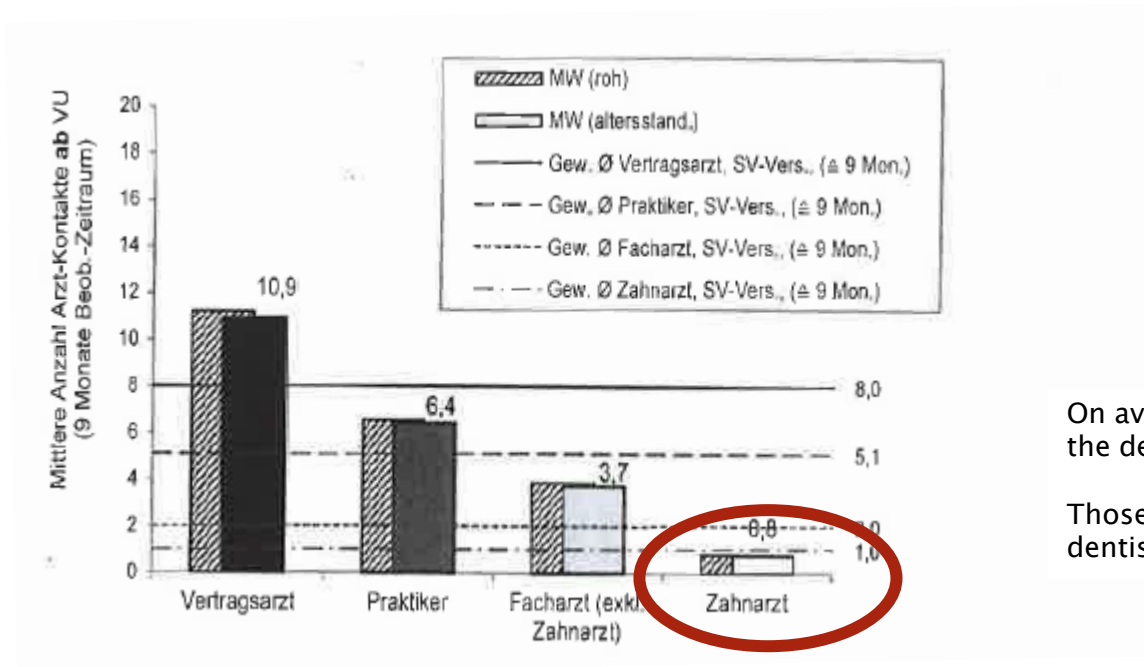
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<b>Redness/Swelling/Loosening</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	27.184	3,38%
No	776.172	96,62%
<b>Calculus/Plaque/Bad Breath/Smoking/Diabetes/Hygiene handicapped</b>		<b>%</b>
Yes	88.625	11,03%
No	714.731	88,97%
<b>Healthy Periodont</b>		<b>%</b>
Yes	730.646	90,95%
No	72.710	9,05%



# Analysis of other data from sickfunds

» Mean number of contacts with medics



On average, every Austrian insured visits the dentist **once every 9 months**.

Those, participating at VU neu, visit the dentist **0.8 times every 9 months**

## Evidence based Health Care Analysis

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- » Search period Nov 08 – Aug 09
  - » Re „dental and periodontal disease“ and „screening“:
    - » U.S. Preventive Services Task Force:
      - » „inactive topic“; no new recommendations or adaptations of recommendations since 1996
    - » UK National Screening Committee:
      - » No up-to-date recommendations
    - » Additional research via PubMed
      - » „... no final conclusion to the validity of the instrument (of self reported periodontal disease) can be drawn.“
- No „high-grade“ evidence for periodontal screening at the GP´s office
- „decision to include it in VU neu is not reproducible“

## Statements by professional societies in Austria

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- » Austrian Society for general and family medicine
  - » Neither homogenous recommendations for teeth cleaning nor nationwide supply of professional cleaning
  - » Dentistry is now a separate medical discipline with its own curriculum. Education and further training of non-dentists can therefore not ensure enough competence necessary for dental diagnosis.
  - » Proposal to replace „questionnaire plus inspection“ through a general recommendation to visit the dentist regularly
- » Austrian Society for Periodontology
  - » Inspection of the oral cavity can only be done by a dentist
  - » Recommends only questions for patients; if one is answered yes → referral to a dentist



# Contact

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Thank you very much for your attention!

