

# Overtreatment

Guidelines and professional regulations of the Swiss Dental Association (SSO) require ethically correct conduct toward the patients. “The dentist and the patient are equal partners within the framework of a contractual relationship, which presupposes mutual respect and comprehensive information.”

Overtreatment jeopardizes the quality of treatment and patient safety. Therefore, unnecessary treatments, in particular for economic reasons, are not acceptable. Such misconduct infringes the professional regulations and can have penal consequences.

Reasons for overtreatment vary and are not only restricted to false incentives and conflicts of interest. Likewise, the medical/technological progress, insufficient

awareness, ambiguous communication between patient and dentist, or false expectations can lead to overtreatment.

A trustful, comprehensible communication with the patient guards against false expectations and reduces the risk for later reproaches, examinations by committees of assessment, or even for legal charges.

## Individual Treatment Concepts

The dentist adjusts the treatment to the individual needs and possibilities of the particular patient. They thereby take into account the economic situation of the patient.

## Treatment Options

A relationship of trust between the dentist and the patient implies that the treatment options are discussed. The dentist comprehensibly informs about the treatment costs and explains these.

## Decision

The dentist and the patient jointly settle the treatment. The patient gives their consent with the knowledge of the costs, alternatives, and risks and is enlightened about the necessity and procedure of the treatment.