Oral health can become challenging in later stages of dementia. People with dementia are more prone to tooth decay and gum disease. This may be because they find it difficult to follow an oral hygiene routine, or because they cannot express that they have a toothache, meaning problems go untreated.

People with dementia have high levels of plaque and many oral health problems related to oral soft tissues, such as gingival bleeding, periodontal pockets, stomatitis, mucosal lesions, and reduced salivary flow.

Guardians and caretakers must not neglect oral health in a patient’s care. If they have dentures, make sure they are being cleaned twice a day. Relying on overnight tablets is not as effective as cleaning with a brush.

Worsening dementia or decrease in cognitive abilities is often paired with a significant decrease in maintaining oral health.