

FM REVIEW 2017 18 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This well-written essay describes the challenges of a medical student from an immigrant, low ses background with no dental insurance when she develops a painful abcessed tooth. Reviewers liked it and so did I. It highlights the importance of oral health in general in the primary care setting; and also reminds us that not all medical students have the resources to adequately navigate all of their health problems. It is a little long; the introductory paragraphs in particular could be condensed. With a few minor changes, including a new title, and a more compelling conclusion, this should make a solid contribution to the journal.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a well-written story that draws in the reader. It offers a reminder that oral health is an important component of overall health; and that youths and young adults from low socioeconomic and immigrant backgrounds are particularly at risk, even if they are medical students. We like the essay, and think it can make a valuable contribution to the journal, but recommend the following changes:

1) The title is not very compelling. Think of something that foreshadows the story you are about to tell.

2) The essay is too long, and should be trimmed by at least 50 words. In particular, the first two paragraphs, while well-crafted, could be consolidated, so that the narrative moves more quickly to the heart of the story.

3) The last sentence is a bit awkward. I've offered a possible revision, but feel free to write your own. Since this is a family medicine journal, please consider tying back the essay in this final sentence to primary care physicians. If your pcp happened to be a family doc, it would be nice to note this (rather than "pc provider") and refer to family docs in the final sentence. If this was not the case, you can just refer to pcp.

Please consult the attached for minor stylistic changes. These small modifications will improve the readability and flow of the essay.

Thank you for highlighting this too often overlooked issue; and for the reminder that not all medical students have the resources to adequately navigate all of their health issues.