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## Bioethics, biomaterials and biosafety in oral rehabilitation: An Indian perspective

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In recent years, there has been a plethora of biomaterials and other technological advancements in the form of implants including dental implants being routinely used for comprehensive oral rehabilitation. These have undoubtedly improved the quality of life and the life expectancy of people; however, the development of new medical technologies has raised many questions over moral and ethical issues. Ethical guidelines have quite often been blurred during the rapid, commercially driven technological advancement in biomaterials. Clinicians need to be aware of the various biosafety aspects of the biomaterials that they commonly use and also ensure that the patients' rights of beneficence, non-maleficence and autonomy are respected. There is an urgent need for all healthcare specialists to be aware of the bioethical concern associated with these advanced materials and technologies so that they are better equipped to utilize them safely and confidently.

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## Medical pluralism in resource constrained communities: Utilizing indigenous knowledge and traditional (herbal) medicine practice for non-communicable diseases

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There are core challenges that resourced-constrained communities face when accessing health care especially for non-communicable diseases. South Africa's healthcare operates in two salient systems: Allopathic (Western) and traditional/indigenous knowledge systems. The concurrent use of both healthcare systems has created contentious views on safety, efficacy and toxicity of these alternative medicines. Furthermore, the associated community based knowledge systems are ignored in spite of the documented fact that more than 80% in rural and marginalized communities are dependent on accessible traditional medicine; a promising platform whereby multidisciplinary critical investigation will be discussed to advance the potential and practice in public health and primary healthcare sectors.

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