A Geriatric Patient with Oral Health Issues Moves Through the Health System

Lena Walton
86-year-old woman who lives with her daughter and primary caregiver, Pamela

Medical History:
- Moderate to severe dementia
- Type 2 diabetes
- Hypertension
- Hyperlipidemia

Lena breaks a front tooth while eating. Due to her limited mobility, making outpatient medical visits is difficult and Lena does not have a dental home.

Over the next 2 weeks, Lena requires more support to ambulate, has difficulty taking fluids, and becomes minimally responsive. Pamela calls her primary care physician who recommends the emergency room for an evaluation.

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With her pain resolved, Lena returns to her previous enjoyment of eating and drinking, and her daughters are grateful to spend time with their mother.

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