

LETTER TO EDITOR

An Approach to Oral Pathology in Medieval Persia: *Hidayat of Akhawayni* Revisited

Dear Editor,

This letter is an attempt to revisit oral pathology in *Hidayat of Akhawayni* based on a modern approach. Akhawayni had described oral pathology in two chapters in Persian literature; the first chapter deals with dental pain and the other with buccal pain.¹ Akhawayni classified toothache as inflammatory and noninflammatory variants.² Treatments for dental pain are mainly based on anatomic principles i.e. using anesthetizing fume, using natural antiseptic and doing dental extraction.³ He recommended sea foam (magnesium silicate) for discolored teeth.^{4,5} The reason for bad breath is discussed by Akhawayni as infected tooth, stomach problems and lung problems.⁶ He categorized painful conditions of the oral cavity as conditions presented with erythema, conditions presented as malakoplakia, corrosive and gangrenous conditions of oral mucosa.^{7,8} Inflammation of gingiva should be managed with rubbing of strong linen cloth to induce bleeding followed by rinsing with vinegar and other solutions with antiseptic property.^{9,10} It is inter-

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1- Khodadoust *et al*, 2013: 9.

2- *Ibid*.

3- *Ibid*.

4- Abu al-Rayhan Biruni, 1991.

5- Ardalan *et al*, 2012.

6- Khodadoust *et al*, 2013: 9.

7- Abu al-Rayhan Biruni, 1991.

8- Ardalan *et al*, 2012.

9- Abu al-Rayhan Biruni, 1991.

10- Ardalan *et al*, 2012.



esting to find that Akhawayni had used surgical approach as the last recourse to manage oral pathology.

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