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SYMBOLS EMPLOYED IN DENTAL PRACTICE
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Introduction. Abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols are used worldwide in dental charting and in dental publications as a convenience. Several national dental associations maintain listings of dental abbreviations, symbols, and acronyms in an effort to give uniformity for authors, educators, practitioners, and students who may have a need to use or know common dental and dental-related abbreviations, symbols, and acronyms. However, their use is not particularly studied in the English language course at the Faculty of Dentistry, which is why we have made this attempt to contribute to the students' learning outcomes.

Aim: 1) To study «Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry» by David Mitchell, Laura Mitchell in order to make a collection of most common abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols required in dentistry;

2) To make a glossary of collected abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols; their meanings and their Belarusian equivalents;

3) To develop a training material for dentistry students, wishing to master the use of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.

Materials and methods. We studied and analyzed «Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry» by David Mitchell, Laura Mitchell, which widely employs abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols. The data were ordered by sphere of use and provided with examples, direct meanings, and their Belarusian equivalents. The latter were formed with the intermediary of the Russian language, there being no available English –Belarusian Dentistry dictionary. The resulting glossary was used to develop a training material for dentistry students seeking to master the use of some most common English dental abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.

Results. A glossary of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in dentistry, accounting to 30 units, was collected from «Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry». The meaning of each unit was revealed, provided with context example, and given a Belarusian equivalent. The study resulted in the development and issue of a training material for dentistry students for the BSMU Department of Foreign Languages, containing instructions and six learning activities with keys.

Conclusion. We have been able to cope with the tasks and the desired result has been achieved.