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### Medical Briefs



**Dr Mohi Ebeid**

#### ***Law to govern drug administration***

**DR** Mohi Ebeid, Head of the Pharmacologists Association and members of the Ministry of Health's advisory committee, held a meeting last week to discuss formulating a law to govern the Egyptian Drug Administration. During the meeting, Dr Ebeid confirmed the need for the Administration to be independent and to be affiliated to the presidency. The chairman of the Administration should be appointed by a decree issued by the President of the Republic.

The draft law of the new Administration will be studied by the Association and will be submitted to the Minister of Health and Population prior to being presented to the House of Deputies for approval.

The new Administration's aim is to drawing up policies and systems to control drug production and trading and to develop the products and ensure they are effective and of a high standard. The stringent measures shall apply to human and veterinary medicines, herbal products, supplements, cosmetics, pesticides, disinfectants, medical supplies and medical devices.

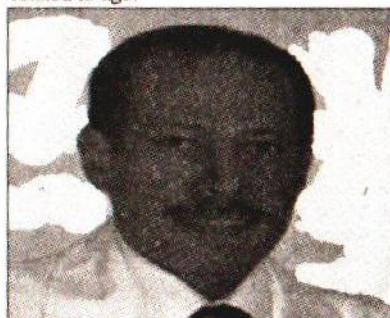
#### ***Dental care for diabetics***

**DIABETES** affects teeth so uncontrolled diabetes exposes patients to gum disease, according to dentist, Fatma Abd el-Nabi. She noted that there were a number preventive measures that can protect teeth against

the complications of diabetes. They are taking medication to control diabetes, according to doctor's instructions; brushing teeth at least twice daily; flossing at least once daily; and using an oral, anti-bacterial mouth rinse to help prevent bacterial plaque from building up on teeth and gums. Dentist Abd el-Nabi recommended that diabetics visit the dentist every six months to clean their gums and to remove lime deposits on their teeth.

#### ***Importance of regular eye checkups***

**PROFESSOR** of Ophthalmology and Director of Maghrabi Hospital Dr Mohamed A. Khalf confirmed that some illnesses that affect the eye have no cure; they include severe damage to the optic nerve. He urged people to have their eyes checked regularly and to check the eyes of infants at the age of six months, to detect any disease as early as possible. He pointed out that the incidence of cataract was related to age.



**Dr Mohamed A. Khalf**

The same applied to retinal detachments and eye tumours. Dr Khalf said that refractive surgeries were being performed through the use of excimer lasers.

He announced that the Maghrabi Charity Institution had sent medical convoys to remote areas and villages that lacked medical services, and they were able to attend to 30,000 cases annually and to perform 3,000 cataract surgeries for poor people.