

Say What?



Frittle (FRIT-uhl) *n.* The little bit of skin that hangs down behind teeth Nos. 8 and 9 because of having been badly scalded by hot pizza.

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ILLUSTRATION
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In dentistry, we have literally thousands of terms, definitions and enough jargon to compete with any profession anywhere. True, there are still gaps and gray areas where the exact word to describe a thing, event or feeling is missing or nonexistent. The following is an attempt to increase your understanding and vocabulary to the point where you can hold your head high and proclaim to the world that you're not as dumb as you look:

Resicrud (RESI-crud) *n.* Little bits of cured resin fused to the end of your curing light, which you are afraid to scrape off for fear of altering the optical properties of the light.

Rotoreem (ROTO-reem) *v.* To twirl an endo file between thumb and forefinger of a gloved hand until the instrument is inextricably welded to the folds of the latex. Can also be applied to picking up one bur from a group of others.

Ditherplotz (DITHER-plotz) *n.* An uneasy feeling occurring on the first day of inaugurating a new fee schedule. Diminishes in intensity after 10 months.

Dodgem (DOD-gem) *v.* To alter course enough to avoid meeting face-to-face an oncoming patient whose name escapes you, but who is sure to know you because she just spent \$1,500 on dental treatment.

Hideybur (HIDEE-bur) *n.* One of several locations in the innards of your chair where a fortune in lost diamonds lies at this moment. There is another in the U-trap under your sink.

Malosite (MAL-osite) *n.* The loss of visual acuity that makes it impossible to distinguish a new diamond or carbide from a used one until the moment of contact with a tooth.

Loquacient (lo-QUAY-shent) *adj.* Said of a patient's rapid and incessant chatter used solely to postpone the actual entering of the mouth as long as possible.

Lasmile (LAS-mile) *n.* The long walk from the reception room to the operatory when the option of escape is voided because of being bracketed by two assistants with cattle prods.

Frittle (FRIT-uhl) *n.* The little bit of

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skin that hangs down behind teeth Nos. 8 and 9 because of having been badly scalded by hot pizza.

Indigoos (INDY-gooz) *n.* The blue marks left on teeth by articulating paper. The counterpart to blancogoos, the white part of the tooth where the blue isn't.

Pratscoot (PRAT-skoot) *n.* The awkward scuttle a patient must make while attempting to settle gracefully into a dental chair.

Nevahred (NEV-ah-red) *n.* The educational pamphlets in the reception room that have been there since 1981 without being picked up or read.

Subaneg (SUBA-neg) *v.* Substitute word used to deflect fear the real word would engender, e.g., recontour for grind. Fools nobody and used only by dentists with ulterior motives.

Spitooey (spit-TOOIE) *n.* Unexpected little fountain of saliva that erupts from mandibular salivary glands, stimulated by Lord knows what.

Flabbergast (FLAB-ber-gast) *n.* The curious combination of profound relief and righteous anger when a patient nobody likes fails to keep appointment.

Radiafoot (RAY-DE-AY-fut) *n.* The length measured in feet required to exit the operatory before the X-ray button is pushed.

Drylpunk (DRILL-punk) *n.* The rogue handpiece that worked fine yesterday, but today will either 1. not spray; 2. refuse to light up; 3. not accept a bur or; 4. eject the bur at speeds exceeding 500 rpm.

Blabadab (BLAB-a-dab) *v.* To engage in the obligatory small talk on unrelated subjects that must be done prior to the actual beginning of treatment.

Eturnatee (ETURN-a-tee) *n.* The length of time that passes between the catching of a gloved finger by a rapidly revolving bur and the removal of the shoe from the foot control.

Eljunko (el-JUNKO) *n.* The bizarre col-



lection of dentally oriented objects every dentist has for which no use has ever been found but that can never be thrown out for fear a use will be found as early as tomorrow.

Spritz (SPRITS) *n.* The sharpest point on a dental light designed to make first contact with the skull when exiting or entering the chair.

Visiblonk (VISI-blonk) *v.* The act of blonking out one's eyes like Little Orphan Annie's when required to concentrate on treatment plans offering more than five options.

Prosodowt (PROS-o-dowt) *n.* The suspicion by the patient that a newly cemented crown or bridge will still feel high/funny/peculiar after 48 hours, even though assured by the dentist that it will be just fine.

Freebie (FREE-bee) *n.* The time spent with a patient delivering a detailed explanation of thermal sensitivity for which there is no procedure code and offering a complimentary sample of Sensodyne.

Digigoop (DIJ-ee-goop) *n.* The mess on one or more fingers of your glove while impatiently testing to see if the polyvinylsiloxane impression material has set yet. Usually purple or some variation thereof.

Ernahernia (erna-HERN-eyah) *v.* To risk moving the average woman's purse

from its resting place to a new location without recourse to block and tackle.

Clorp (CLORP) *n.* A condition that results in the end of the floss becoming disengaged from the little cutter on the lid and disappearing into the container. When this happens, the floss is said to have "clorped" and so have you.

Splort (SPLORT) *n.* Detailed list of prophylaxis paste flavors that never quite made it. For example: broccoli, tuna/peanut butter, persimmon and steptic pencil.

Boca Grande (BOCAH GRAHN-day) *n.* A division in the Dental Hall of Fame devoted to recognizing with public appreciation the mouths of celebrities, current or deceased, that the dental profession considers ideal. Criteria for nomination are: capacity for minimum 10 cotton rolls, saliva ejector, minimum two-gloved fingers and head of high-speed handpiece. Further requirement: *boca grande* nominee (if alive) must be able to carry on intelligible conversation while foregoing is present in mouth. Limited listing of honorees includes Martha Raye, Julia Roberts, Nat "King" Cole, Carly Simon, Joe E. Brown and Louis Armstrong.

Mooladay (MOOLA-day) *n.* That day 48 hours after the mailing of 500 monthly statements when one could reasonably expect an avalanche of money to appear in the mail. This has never been known to happen.

Hoosieezit (who-SEEZ-it) *n.* Explanation of black line visible at crown margin.

Blackpology (BLAK-pol-ogee) *n.* See hoosieezit.

Palatickle (PALA-tickul) *v.* Action of prophylaxis cup on lingual of upper anteriors.

Damnpostdam (dam-POST-dam) *n.* What you remove (along with retention) from gagger's denture.

Omigusher (OMMEY-gushur) *n.* Overactive saliva gland. ■■■■