



Dan Hubig

Supplement on Inflammation and Overall Health Released

In the last 10 years, research has focused on the role chronic inflammation may play in diseases, including those of the gums. Periodontists have begun to reappraise the current knowledge of chronic disease and inflammation relative to the clinical management of patients with perio problems.

The American Academy of Periodontology held a workshop, "Inflammation and Periodontal Diseases: A Reappraisal," earlier this year. The event, supported through a Colgate grant, brought together more than 80 leading experts in the fields of dentistry, clinical medicine, and basic science.

CONTINUES ON 819

Complications of Correcting Severe Maxillary Atrophy Reduced by Software

A new study reports that computer software can facilitate surgical planning in patients with severe bone atrophy, according to an article published in the *Journal of Oral Implantology*.

Because of a lack of bone volume and the poor bone quality of the jaw, traditional surgical techniques to correct maxillary atrophy can have greater risks and require longer recovery periods. Successful placement and positioning of implants is paramount to reduce these risks.

In the study, a 66-year-old woman, due to severe maxillary atrophy, was unable to wear her upper and lower complete dentures. Doctors recommended a computerized scan to simulate implant placement in the most appropriate available zones because they felt a computer-guided implant placement was the only way to treat this patient without more complex reconstruction techniques.

The surgery and postoperative care were completed and after three years, the patient rated her satisfaction as 9 out of 10 on a visual analog scale.

Maxillary computerized tomography scans can reduce the risk of surgical complications and improve the postoperative course and functional outcomes by recommending the best possible implant placement and positioning information.

To read the full text of the article, "Computer-guided Implant Placement in a Patient with Severe Atrophy" is available at http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/orim-34-04-04_203_207.pdf.



iCEM Self Adhesive

Heraeus Kulzer, Inc., drives product innovation with the launch of iCEM Self Adhesive. This "intelligent cement" is an all-in-one resin that provides ease and speed of application combined with reliable bond strength. The easy handling and tolerance to moisture on the tooth add to this innovative formula.



For a limited time, Heraeus is offering a special iCEM Introductory Kit that includes 3-7 gm automix syringes, 45 mixing tips, pictorial card and instructions, plus one iCEM Self Adhesive 7 gm syringe refill with 15 mixing tips that are free with purchase. To order iCEM Self Adhesive or to order an introductory kit, go to www.heraeus-kulzer-us.com or call (800) 431-1785.

Natural Sleep State Can Be Delivered by New Sedative



A patient snoozing happily through a root canal? Is it possible? Yes, according to a new study in *Anesthesia Progress* that shows that intravenous Dexmedetomidine (Dex), which has previously been used as a sedative in intensive care units, may now be appropriate for use by anesthesia-trained professionals. Dex, unlike other anesthetics, produces a state similar to natural sleep. The sedative levels are easily manipulated, it takes effect quickly, respiration and circulation are only minimally altered, and patients are easily aroused to consciousness following the procedure.

Low doses of Dex produce effective sedation, even though patients are easily reawakened after dosing is discontinued, results showed. Patients responded to the sedative within 10 minutes of the start

of the infusion and regained orientation within 15 minutes after its discontinuation, with full equilibrium restored in 60 minutes. Discontinuing the Dex infusion about 15 minutes before the end of the procedure is recommended to minimize recovery time. It should also be noted that patients in this study were relatively young and healthy; higher doses and differences in age and health may affect the performance of Dex.

Dex also may be beneficial for patients with high blood pressure or heart disease. Dex, in this study, produced a small but significant decrease in mean arterial blood pressure during the procedure (from 85 mm Hg to 77 mm Hg). In contrast, most local anesthetics used in dentistry contain epinephrine which tends to increase blood pressure temporarily.

To read the entire study, go to <http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/ANPR-55-3-82.pdf>.

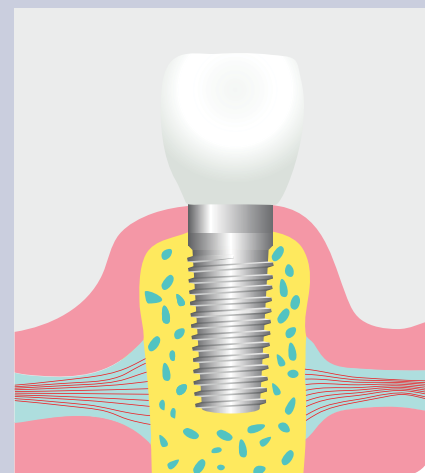
Success Rate High for Dental Implants

Dental implants have a 98 percent success rate and cause little or no bone loss, according to new research published in the *Journal of Oral Implantology*.

Authors Zeev Ormianer, DMD, and Ady Palty, DMD, reviewed 60 charts of patients who received a total of 267 implants in two private dental practices in Israel and Germany and found that 98.5 percent of the implants survived, and there was no discernable bone loss in 88 percent of the implant sites. (The mean follow-up time was 7.5 years.)

The study goal was to determine the level of bone loss over time at the implant sites in the jaw. A key clinical issue was not whether bone loss would occur but how much bone loss should be considered normal and acceptable.

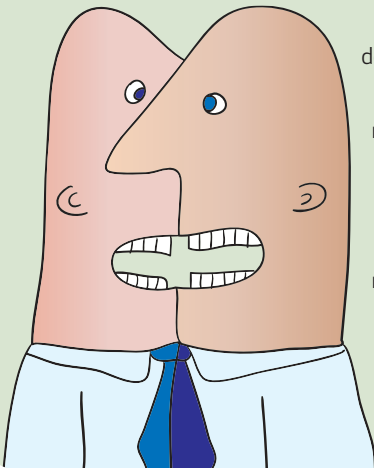
Jamie Lozada, DDS, president of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, and on faculty with Loma Linda School of Dentistry, said the study adds to growing body of compelling clinical evidence supporting dental implants as the most successful method for replacing missing or compromised teeth. "With an estimated two of three Americans having at least one missing tooth, implants are becoming the preferred tooth-replacement option. Implant surgery is one of the safest, most precise and predictable procedures in dentistry," Lozada said.



Dental Organizations Merge

The American Academy of Dental Group Practice and the Dental Group Management Association, national membership organizations, have announced they will formally merge into a single organization effective Jan. 1, 2009.

In accordance with revised bylaws approved by AADGP members at their last business meeting, the DGMA will form the basis for a new Administrator Section within the AADGP and which will be represented on the AADGP board. Other changes to the bylaws include streamlining the number of AADGP board officers and their terms of office to encourage broader board participation, as well as the creation of a Practice Management Company Membership Section.



AADGP and DGMA together represented the interests of group practice dentists and managers.

In a joint statement issued by the AADGP and DGMA boards, members noted that, "After more than 25 years of collaboration by our two organizations, the merge just makes sense. Dental group practice is distinguished from other delivery settings by the close cooperation and sharing of business decisions by practitioners and managers and it is appropriate that a single organization represent them as well."

AADGP President Alan Slutsky and DGMA President Vincent Cardillo also said "This merge greatly benefits both organizations. Both DGMA and AADGP members are eager to combine efforts and work to support all aspects of the dental industry."

Army Trims Obligation Time for Health Care Officers

The U.S. Army Medical Department has implemented a portion of the Army's Officer Accession Pilot Program that permits it to reduce the Military Service Obligation period to two years for experienced health care professionals ages 43- to 60-years-old, seeking initial appointment as an officer in all Army Medical Department Corps.

This program is extended to dentists, nurses, physicians, veterinarians, and other health care professionals.

Through this new program, qualified health care professionals can now be commissioned as officers in the Army Medical Department for their initial appointment. Upon completion of their two-year service commitment, health care professionals will have no further obligation; however, they may seek to extend their term of service in either active or reserve status should they choose to do so.

"Through this program, the Army is looking to attract highly skilled health care

professionals across a variety of fields who want to rediscover their passion for medicine by serving their country and working with one of the best health care teams in the world," said Col. Rafael C. Montagno, Medical Recruiting Brigade commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

To be eligible for service, the volunteer must meet the eligibility criteria, including

- Be a citizen of the United States for Regular Army, or a permanent resident for Army Reserve and able to obtain a secret clearance;
- Be of good moral character; and
- Have completed all educational/specialty licensing and certification requirements in the specific medical field in which the individual seeks appointment as prescribed by The U.S. Army Surgeon General and applicable law, regulation and policy.

For more information about the Officer Accession Pilot Program, go to healthcare.goarmy.com or call (800) USA-ARMY.



First 'World Oral Health Day' Held

The American Dental Association and the FDI World Dental Federation, in an effort to increase awareness for oral health, as well as the impact of oral diseases on general health and well-being, recently celebrated the first "World Oral Health Day."

According to the U.S. Surgeon General's oral health report, employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work annually in the United States alone due to dental disease or dental visits.

"The American Dental Association is pleased to stand with the FDI and other national dental associations around the world to emphasize how crucial good oral health is to overall health," stated Mark J. Feldman, DMD, ADA president. "We also want to help increase global awareness about proven preventive measures, including



oral health education that can help reduce dental disease and suffering."

Sept. 12 was chosen to coincide with existing oral health days around the world to honor the FDI founder, Dr. Charles Godon, who was born Sept. 12, 1854, and to jointly celebrate the anniversary of the groundbreaking World Health Organization's International Conference on Primary Health Care at Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, which took place Sept. 12, 1978.

"The FDI is delighted to celebrate the first-ever 'World Oral Health Day' with its 191-member associations around the world," said Burton Conrod, DDS, FDI president. "We hope that awareness for the importance of oral health can be elevated through the worldwide recognition of this day. The dentists of the world are committed to helping each and everyone in achieving optimal oral health through prevention and the highest possible standard of care."

Dental Benefits Key to Oral and Overall Health

The National Association of Dental Plans, in a white paper, said dental benefits are integral to overcoming cost concerns that keep Americans from visiting the dentist, a vital step in maintaining oral health.

Based on its consumer survey of more than 6,000 people, the NADP discovered that a lack of insurance is the most common reason for not visiting the dentist — seven times more common than fear. Additionally, those covered by dental benefits have a more positive perception of their oral and overall health.

The survey also revealed that individuals with dental benefits are more likely to receive restorative care to maintain their oral health. They also are more likely to have had a root canal (52 percent); more likely to have had crowns (32 percent); and more likely to have cavities filled (18 percent).

What's more, consumers with dental benefits maintain more of their teeth as they are 30 percent less likely to have a tooth extraction.

On the other hand, respondents without dental coverage are 16 percent more likely to report receiving no basic or major procedures in the last two years.

Based on these findings from the survey, as well as a body of industry research and studies, the NADP released a white paper "Dental Benefits: A Wise Investment in Your Family's Health," which explores the prevalence of dental disease in children and adults and the role of dental benefits coverage in maintaining oral health. The paper also provides general information about the cost of dental benefits, reasons to have dental coverage, and where to find it.

To obtain a copy of the white paper, go to NADP's consumer Web site, ineeddentalbenefits.com.



Honors

Cindy Lyon, DDS, Murphys, Calif., has been named chair of the Department of Dental Practice at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. She will manage the educational curriculum; recruit, mentor and monitor faculty and staff members; maintain relations with Dugoni's administration; represent the department in forming academic policy; and serve on a variety of committees, including the Dental Faculty Council and the Executive Admissions Committee.

Earlier this year, Omicron Kappa Upsilon honored Lyon with the Charles Craig Teaching Award, which recognizes educators who have implemented innovative teaching techniques in dental education. She is the recipient of the California Dental Association Distinguished Service Award, and is a fellow of both the ADEA Leadership Institute and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, San Rafael, Calif., has been appointed as associate dean for Academic Affairs at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry.



Cindy Lyon, DDS



Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA

Kirk M. Hobock, DDS, MAGD, of San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; **Christopher H. Kleber, DDS, MAGD**, of Coronado, Calif.; and **Chikka M. Raju, DMD, MAGD, ABGD**, of Norco, Calif.; were recently presented with the Academy of General Dentistry's Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition Awards.

The honors acknowledge the continued achievements of AGD masters "who clearly recognize the professional obligation to remain current in their profession. Active members create an example that reminds each member of the dental profession to never lose sight of this obligation."

INFLAMMATION, CONTINUED FROM 815

Workshop proceedings were published in a special supplement to the August issue of the *Journal of Periodontology* and the workshop planning committee presented the published findings at the American Dental Association's annual session last month in San Antonio.

"The purpose of making the workshop proceedings available to the dental, medical, and other scientific communities is to expand awareness and understanding of inflammation as a common factor in many diseases, including periodontal disease," said Kenneth Kornman, DDS, PhD, editor of the *Journal of Periodontology* and a member of the workshop on Inflammation Planning Committee. "Furthering our understanding of inflammation will allow all health care professionals to better treat their patients."

The *Journal of Periodontology's* supplement included commentary and summaries based on the workshop's presentations from leading researchers and clinicians discussing the role of inflammation in disease and what this role might mean in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of various diseases, including perio disease. Topics such as genetic and environmental factors that regulate inflammation, why inflammation is different among different individuals, and the role of inflammation in diseases such as periodontal disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and cardiovascular disease, also were covered.

For information on receiving an electronic copy of "Inflammation and Periodontal Diseases: A Reappraisal" contact the AAP's Public Affairs Department, (312) 573-3242.

Spellex

Spellex announced the release of their medical and pharmaceutical spelling dictionaries that are now compatible with Adobe programs. Spellex Medical 2008 and Spellex Pharmaceutical 2008 now offer correct spelling for more than 300,000 medical words and thousands of drug and prescription pharmaceuticals, generic drugs, Latin and Greek terms, distributors and manufacturers, and more.

Medical dictionary users can also subscribe to Spell-X-Plus software for quarterly updates of new terms, medications, etc. Prices start at \$99 for single users and \$595 for 10 user licenses. For more information, go to www.spellex.com or call (800) 442.9673.



Baby Firefly Step 1 Toothbrush by Dr. Fresh



Baby's first tooth will make its debut between four and seven months of age. Dr. Fresh has designed a colorful toothbrush that will set the stage for good oral care habits and healthy smiles. Built-in LCD lights flash

brightly for the proper length of time that each arch should be brushed, as well as keeping baby happy and interested. Soft nylon bristles are gentle on the gums and teeth, and the toothbrush's shape fits baby's small mouth. Baby Firefly toothbrushes are available in pink or blue and retail for \$2.69 each.

Strengthen Medicaid Oral Health Programs

The American Dental Association recently called on Congress and other stakeholders to work together to get more dentists to participate in Medicaid and help the program provide necessary dental care to vulnerable low-income children.



In testimony provided to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, ADA Vice President Jane Grover, DDS, said the most effective thing Congress and the states can do to help Medicaid provide quality oral health care is to increase reimbursement rates to attract more dentists into the program. In addition, they should address ongoing administrative barriers (such as excessive paperwork), and involve state dental societies and individual dentists as active partners in improving the program.

As dental director at a federally qualified health center in Michigan, Grover

said she is well acquainted with the reasons many private practice dentists do not participate in Medicaid. Many state Medicaid fees, she noted, are well below what it costs dentists to provide care, a situation that severely limits the program's effectiveness.

Grover cited Michigan's "Healthy Kids Dental" program for its effectiveness in improving access to oral health care.

"The 'Healthy Kids Dental' program is essentially the same as the private sector Delta Dental plan used by many individuals with coverage provided by their employer in the state of Michigan," she said. "The dentists are paid at a PPO rate, which might be less than the usual rate charged by the dentist but is still widely accepted. The claims processing is identical to the private sector plan, except the beneficiaries have no co-pays and there is no annual maximum."

To help states improve their Medicaid programs and greatly improve dental coverage for low-income children, Congress should pass HR 2472, the Essential Oral Health Care Act, Grover said.

Handpiece Experts/Sirona Dental Systems Handpiece Experts and Sirona Dental Systems has launched the new Air Power and E-Power handpieces series. These handpieces are lightweight, high-performance, durable, and optic

equipped. The handpieces are available throughout North America through certified Handpiece Experts dealers. For more information go to www.handpieceexperts.com or www.sirona.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2008

Nov. 2-8 United States Dental Tennis Association fall meeting, Palm Desert, dentaltennis.org.

Nov. 13-15 Hispanic Dental Association's 16th annual meeting, Carefree, Ariz, hdassoc.org.

2009

May 14-17 CDA Presents *The Art and Science of Dentistry*, Anaheim, 800-CDA-SMILE (232-7645), cda.org.

Sept. 12-13 CDA Presents *The Art and Science of Dentistry*, San Francisco, 800-CDA-SMILE (232-7645), cda.org.

Oct. 1-4 American Dental Association 150th Annual Session, Honolulu, Hawaii, ada.org.

Nov. 8-14 United States Dental Tennis Association fall meeting, Scottsdale, Ariz., dentaltennis.org.

To have an event included on this list of nonprofit association continuing education meetings, please send the information to Upcoming Meetings, CDA Journal, 1201 K St., 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 or fax the information to 916-554-5962.