

HYGIENE TRIBUNE

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ADHA white paper looks at hygienist's role in diagnosis

Using hygiene diagnoses in a wide range of care settings

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has released a white paper that underscores the ability of the dental hygienist to perform dental hygiene diagnosis as part of the oral-care team working to ensure that every patient is evaluated and treated based on individual oral health needs.

According to the ADHA paper, dental hygiene diagnosis is an essential part of dental hygiene care and scope of practice, yet confusion exists on how to implement it into daily practice.

The ADHA created the white paper to help practicing dental hygienists understand and use dental hygiene diagnoses in their daily practice across a wide variety of care settings. In addition, the organization is providing tools and resources for dental hygiene educators to help them teach dental hygiene diagnosis

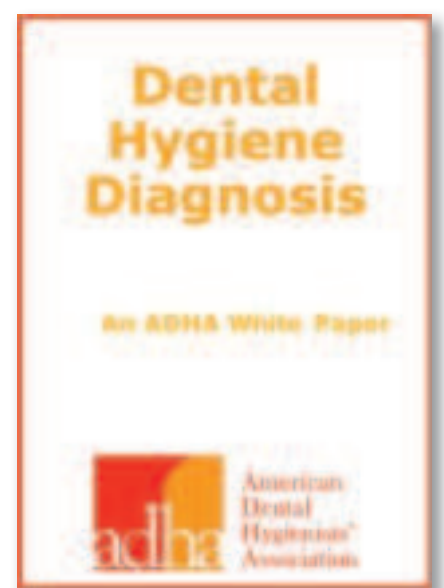
to students. The organization is the profession's national voice informing policymakers as they consider legislation related to the dental hygiene scope of practice. The ADHA Dental Hygiene Diagnosis white paper can be downloaded at www.eiseverywhere.com/esurvey/index.php?surveyid=40570.

ADHA defines dental hygiene diagnosis as "the identification of an individual's health behaviors, attitudes, and oral health care needs for which a dental hygienist is educationally qualified and licensed to provide. The dental hygiene diagnosis requires evidence-based critical analysis and interpretation of assessments to reach conclusions about the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs."

"Through dental hygiene diagnoses, dental hygienists educate patients on behaviors that minimize risks of oral infections, help detect risk factors for in-

fectious diseases and cancers of the head and neck," said ADHA president Betty Kabel, RDH, BS. "This elevates the role of the dental hygienist within the overall health care system, as we seek to expand the access to oral care. It's important to utilize the dental hygiene diagnoses regularly and consistently to ensure optimal care for our patients."

While dental hygienists' rigorous education prepares them to provide preventive and therapeutic oral health services, the profession's scope of practice varies from state to state. ADHA emphasizes that it is important for dental hygienists to fully utilize their education to provide oral health care services that fall within their scope, especially for populations that lack adequate access to oral health care services. The organization also advocates for using the new white paper as a resource by policymakers involved in



decisions about state practice acts.

For more information, you can visit www.adha.org.

(Source: ADHA)

Commentary

PAW's 'tatooth'

Buccal aspect adventure helps connect hygienist with dental-lab technician

By Patricia Walsh, RDH
Editor in Chief, Hygiene Tribune

Just prior to his retirement, my boss decided it was time do some farewell dentistry on me. Poor old #18 had been patched and repatched for years. The tooth was in need of a crown. For decades, quick restorations were done. Spur-of-the-moment fillings were squeezed in between my hygiene duties. At one point, I was left alone — still-elevated and reclined — when the doctor and his assistant went off to see their next patient in an adjoining room. Am I done? Am I supposed to get myself out of here?



Patricia A. Walsh, RDH

Can I reach the buttons? I finally whimpered for help. This month it was time for me to have a "real" appointment on my day off. While I was sitting in the chair, waiting for the crown impression to set, I remembered a long-ago patient who had a Dow Chemical logo on his molar. Rather than believe he had a strong esprit de corps, I had always thought of it as a form of forensic ID. If you're a chemical engineer potentially in the wrong place at the wrong time in some far off developing country — taking such precautions seemed plausible to me. For all I knew, perhaps he never made it farther

than Stamford, Conn. Nonetheless, it was this adventurous, imaginative notion that inspired me.

During my travels to Asia, I did give some serious consideration to a foreign-language body tattoo. I just never summoned the courage. Because my initials are PAW, I decided that a pawprint on the buccal aspect of my molar would be just the thing. Fearful that I could wind up with a ferocious bear print, rather than a cutesy cute pussycat print, I included a Googled image to attach to the lab slip. Can't say that I saw another image of a paw as a tooth tattoo on my internet search. Plenty of animals affiliated with professional and school sports teams can be found adorning teeth. Harley Davidson motorcycles and hearts seem to be popular.

My old boss, being the rascal that he is, added a personal note to his lab slip. He scribbled, "She's a cougar!" Well har dee har har. After 40 years of using the same lab, I guess he was entitled to a little sexist joke. I later told the lab technician that if I were a cougar, then my "cub" is 60 years old. Not much in the way of bragging rights there. Half of my office thinks I'm off my rocker for getting a "tatooth." The other half thinks it's adorable.

Many years ago, the same doctor was making small talk while waiting for his patient to get numb. After a few minutes the patient asked the doctor and his assistant if they wished to see her new tattoo. The young lady did not wait for a re-

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The new LED DayLite WireLess and the new LED DayLite WireLess Mini headlights can integrate with various platforms, including your existing loupes, safety eyewear, lightweight headbands and future loupes or eyewear purchases. Photo/Provided by Designs for Vision

WireLess headlight self-contained

Cordless, compact LED headlights can work with all your loupes and frames

Designs for Vision's new LED DayLite WireLess™ Mini and LED DayLite® WireLess™ not only frees you from being tethered to a battery pack, but the simple modular designs also uncouple the headlights from a specific frame or single pair of loupes.

Prior technology married a cordless light to one pair of loupes via a cumbersome integration of the batteries and electronics into the frame. The compact design of the LED DayLite WireLess headlights are independent of any frame/loupes.

The patent-pending design of the LED DayLite WireLess headlights is a new concept: a self-contained headlight that can integrate with various platforms, including your existing loupes, safety eyewear, lightweight headbands and future loupes or eyewear purchases.

The LED DayLite WireLess or WireLess Mini is not limited to just one pair of loupes or built into a single, specific eyeglass frame. The LED DayLite Wire-

Less headlights can be transferred from one platform to another, expanding your "WireLess" illumination possibilities across all of your eyewear options.

The LED DayLite WireLess Mini weighs less than 1 ounce and, when attached to a pair of loupes, the combined weight is half the weight of integrated cordless lights/loupes.

The LED DayLite WireLess produces more than 40,000 lux at high intensity and 27,000 lux at medium intensity, while the intensity of the LED DayLite WireLess Mini is 27,000 lux. The spot size of each of the LED DayLite WireLess headlights will illuminate the entire oral cavity.

The LED DayLite WireLess is powered by a compact, rechargeable lithium-ion power pod. The WireLess Mini is powered by specialty rechargeable lithium-ion cylindrical cells. Both LED DayLite WireLess headlights come complete with three batteries/battery pods. The charging cradle enables you to independently

recharge two batteries/battery pods at the same time and shows the progress of each charge cycle.

Designs for Vision is also featuring the Reality-5-Star-rated Micro 3.5EF Scopes, which use a revolutionary optical design that reduces the size of the prismatic telescope by 50 percent and reduces the weight by 40 percent, while providing an expanded-field full-oral-cavity view at 3.5x magnification.

The Micro Series from Designs for Vision is fully customized and uses the proprietary lens coatings for the greatest light transmission.

You can see the Visible Difference® yourself by visiting Designs for Vision's booths, No. 1813 and No. 2012, at the GNYDM.

Or you can contact the company to arrange a visit in your office by calling (800) 345-4009 or by sending an email to info@dvimail.com.

(Source: Designs For Vision)

← TATOOTH, page C1

sponse. She leaned forward in the chair, lifted up her shirt and tugged down on her jeans. Ta da. There it was, in all its colorful glory. After the appreciative nods and the obligatory oohs and aahs, the dentist continued with her restorative work as if nothing unusual had just happened.

Early in my career, there was a young dentist who told me he was envious of his older brother who was an MD in Philadelphia. When I asked him why, he responded, "Just once in my life I would like to be able to turn to a patient and say, 'Take your clothes off, I'll be with you in a few minutes.'" I groaned and replied, "Probably a very old dental school joke." He would have enjoyed "tattoo girl."

I decided to pop into our local dental lab with a box of doughnuts as a thank-you for their beautiful work. Staring at my new crown in its tiny plastic box, I suddenly realized what a disconnect there is between technician and hygiene. Unless a hygienist works in a large group practice with an in-house lab, it's unlikely she or he has ever stepped foot inside a

lab. I was particularly impressed with the fact that the technicians had knowledge of at least eight different digital impression devices. While a series of individual images creates model-free impressions now, videos will be the next big leap.

If we have a temp in the office who is familiar with Dentrux but not Eaglesoft, there's a learning curve. Most often, those are your only two hygiene choices. Inside a dental office where there is a newly purchased digital impression device, a staff member can expect two to three days of in-house training. More education is available online, the company rep might come in for glitches, but it's truly a "learn-by-the-seat-of-your-pants" adventure. As technology rapidly changes, I imagine the lab technicians will be going to perpetual C.E. courses for new and forever-updating software.

Despite all the technical advancements, machines are not able to recreate the intricate and subtle esthetic features of a natural tooth. The lab technician's artistic expertise is still very important.

To my coworkers who were unimpressed with my choice of crown "color" (my customization was identified on



the invoice as a \$100 custom color) all I can say is this. A body tattoo sags over time, my paw print will be perfect forever. I'm thinking that when #31 breaks down, perhaps some little cat ears on the lingual side, with a matching tail on the buccal side?

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