Weekly Roundup

Biphosphonate Drugs

Drugs containing biphosphonates may place those taking them at risk for development of osteonecrosis of the jaws. Such drugs are usually given to breast cancer patients, patients of specific types of bone cancer therapies and those at risk for osteoporosis. This news comes from a literature review and case report in the May/June 2006 issue of General Dentistry, which is a clinical, peer-reviewed journal by the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). The jawbone has a rapid cell turnover rate, so the presence of biphosphonates can mean that it is prevented from healing properly after dental surgery or an extraction because the drugs can remain in the bone indefinitely.

Pregnancy Cravings

Some pregnant women suffer from an eating disorder called pica that causes them to crave freezer frost, ice or even soil. This comes from a study that appeared in the May/June edition of General Dentistry by the AGD. When combined with bulimia, pica can severely affect a mother’s oral health during pregnancy and it can be difficult to diagnose and treat during that time. As a compulsive eating disorder, pica sufferers have an appetite for non-nutritious materials. The connection between pica and bulimia and their causes are not known, but cultural and physiological factors have been suggested, as well as depression or iron and zinc deficiencies.

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I.D. Tech Reaches Dentistry

3,400 Flock to Hawaii Event

The winners of the AAE’s highest honors: Drs. Andris Jaunzemenis, Rafael Mlinaric, Sing-Chul Kim, Harmon R. Katz, Leif Tronstad, Thomas P. Mullaney, and John M. Nusstein.

AAE ’06 Focuses on “Raising the Bar”

LAS VEGAS—Attendees of the 2006 Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists packed the Honolulu Convention Center from March 29 through April 1 for education and networking surrounding the theme “Raising the Bar—Elevating the Standard of Endodontic Care”. Though in- clement weather may have disappointed many Hawaiian visitors, it certainly made for a successful meeting—just over 3,400 AAE members, exhibitors and guests crowded lecture rooms, workshops and the exhibit hall.

This year’s event showcased many new and special services due to the island venue. A shortened meeting schedule offered traditional luncheon events in a breakfast format, and an early end to educational sessions. Many educational sessions and workshops were offered by an electronic reader to send out a code which can be picked up. This code can be linked to a database containing a person’s details or, as Dr Thevissen suggests, spell out simple information directly.

Highlights of the week’s biggest news.

Dr. Thevissen and his colleagues said that they had adapted an electronic identification tag which vets injected routinely into animals. Similar radio frequency identification (RFID) tags are used by retailers to track stock and supermarkets to gain more detailed customer information. The tags, the size of a grain of rice, use the power from a radio pulse emitted by an electronic reader to send out a code which can be picked up. By Daniel Zimmermann

I.D. Tech Reaches Dentistry

Dental Tribune International
By Daniel Zimmermann

SEATTLE—At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle, USA, scientists from Belgium presented an ID chip that can be implanted into a tooth. The chip carries detailed personal information and was developed to help forensic scientists identify bodies after natural disasters and terrorist attacks with numerous victims. “You put your ID card in your pocket, we put it in a tooth,” said Patrick Thevissen, a forensic odontologist at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. The ID chip can carry information including a person’s name, nationality, date of birth, gender, national ID code and can be read after death even when teeth had been badly damaged.

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