Oral sedation treatment ideal for cosmetic dentistry

By Heather Victor

W hat if you could prep a full mouth for crowns and veneers with the assurance that those in your care would have little to no postoperative discomfort? What if you could complete entire treatment plans for your patients in as little as two to three appointments? It's possible with oral sedation dentistry.

Oral sedation is an ideal treatment option for patients undergoing extensive cosmetic dental procedures. While it is typically advocated for those with high fear and anxiety, it can be tremendously beneficial for people who require longer cosmetic and restorative dentistry appointments.

One of the less recognized yet appealing benefits of oral sedation is that it allows more dentistry to be performed in a single visit. Dentists can work faster and more efficiently on patients who are relaxed and comfortable. Gag reflexes lessen, tense muscles ease, and hours feel like mere minutes for the patient. And for those who are anxious, it makes their experience that much easier.

Treatments like full mouth restorations often require multiple prep visits. With proper scheduling and oral sedation dentistry, the procedures can usually be finished in as little as three appointments: one to prep and provisionalize the first arch, one to prep the second arch, and finally, one for completing the plan and inserting the second arch. It is important to keep in mind that the amount of time required depends on an individual practitioner's advanced training and experience.

Oral sedation allows dentists to provide the most relaxed and comfortable dental treatments possible. An added benefit of sedation is little to no postoperative discomfort for the patient, regardless of the procedure. This may be a result of the analgesic and amnesic properties of the sedative medications.

With fewer appointments to attend and quicker results, patients are more likely to complete their treatment plans. It's often said that happy patients make for happy dentists, and it's true. Satisfied patients are the gateway to more referrals.

The use of oral sedation dentistry can enjoy the rewards of their hard work through the happy and fully restored smiles of the people they care for.

To learn more about oral sedation dentistry visit DOCSeducation.org or call (877) 525-3627.

Cosmetic surgery becomes more popular despite insurance holdups

Cosmetic surgery is becoming more popular in the U.S., but reconstructive plastic surgery appears to be declining because of less reimbursement from insurers. A widely publicized report issued on March 25 by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) says that nearly 12 million cosmetic plastic surgery procedures were performed in the U.S. in 2007 — increases of 7 percent from 2006 and 59 percent from 2000.

The number of surgical cosmetic procedures remained relatively unchanged from 2006, with more than 1.8 million procedures being performed in 2007. Minimally-invasive cosmetic procedures rose by 9 percent, to nearly 10 million procedures, but reconstructive plastic surgery procedures tapered off by 2 percent. The report did not break out cosmetic procedures that were specifically dental.

Source: American Society of Plastic Surgeons

OSAP responds to CDC Measles advisory

The Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP) has developed a special page on its Web site at osap.org in response to a recent CDC Health Advisory on measles outbreaks in the U.S. The page includes information specific to dental professionals, including photographs of the oral cavities of infected patients.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is transmitted by respiratory droplets and airborne spread.

For more information, visit osap.org.

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