Dispelling myths

AAE tells patients who need a root canal to see an endodontist

Despite state-of-the-art advancements in endodontic treatment that make root canal procedures often as straightforward as fillings, Americans still express fear of the procedure. According to a recent survey by the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), 67 percent of Americans say fear of pain most concerns them about having root canal treatment.

In an effort to help dispel these fears, the AAE recently held its 10th anniversary celebration of Root Canal Awareness Week, March 27 to April 2. Root Canal Awareness Week is a nationwide effort to encourage patients who need a root canal to see an endodontist to save their natural teeth. In this publicity effort, AAE informs the public that endodontists have at least two years of additional training beyond dental school and are highly skilled specialists in performing root canals and diagnosing and treating tooth pain. Their mix of advanced training, techniques and equipment improve patient comfort, ease anxiety and alleviate pain, AAE emphasizes. “Endodontists, the root canal specialists, devote their practice to root canal treatment and related procedures,” said AAE President Dr. Terryl A. Propper, a private practicing endodontist in Nashville, Tenn. “We use technologies like microscopes, digital and 3-D imaging and ultrasonics to diagnose and treat our patients quickly, comfortably and successfully.” AAE research shows that dentists refer an average of 43 percent of root canal patients to an endodontist, yet almost all general dentists surveyed, 94 percent, say they have a positive or very positive perception of endodontists and the care they provide. “Even if your dentist does not recommend a root canal specialist, ask about the benefits of consulting one,” Propper said. “Americans are taking more control of their health care, and that should include oral health. Patients who need root canal treatment should consider seeing an endodontist.”

Tips for selecting an endodontist

The AAE offers a number of tips for patients on selecting an endodontist:

1. Cover the basics. Look for an endodontist who is both convenient and accessible. Inquire about specialists near your home or workplace, and find out if the endodontist’s office is open during alternative hours, such as evenings or weekends. Ask whether specific endodontists have alternative hours, such as evenings or weekends. Ask whether specific endodontists have alternative hours.

2. Get referrals. Ask your general dentist if he or she has any recommendations for endodontists. Ask about specialists near your home or workplace, and find out if the endodontist’s office is open during alternative hours, such as evenings or weekends. Ask whether specific endodontists have alternative hours.

3. Contact the AAE. For more information or to find an endodontist near you, visit www.aae.org/rcaw.

In San Francisco: The latest products for endodontists

The exhibit hall at AAE16, the annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), taking place April 6 to 9 at Moscone Center West in San Francisco, will be filled with plenty of new and exciting products.

Among the highlights: The new Irritrol single-step irrigation solution from Essential Dental Systems (EDS), Munce Discovery Burs from CJM Engineering, new PacEndo products from Pac-Dent International, and 2Seal easymiX Root Canal Sealer from Roydent.

AAE16 features the largest endodontic exhibit hall in the world, with nearly 100 vendors offering the latest in endodontic equipment, materials and supplies. See pages E2 and E4 for an exhibit hall preview.

This poster promotes the American Association of Endodontists’ annual Root Canal Awareness Week, held this year from March 27 to April 2. The nationwide effort encourages patients who need a root canal to see an endodontist to save their natural teeth.

Photos/Provided by Essential Dental Systems (EDS), CJM Engineering, Pac-Dent International and Roydent
Irritrol: A single-step irrigation solution

Irritrol — available from Essential Dental Systems (EDS) — is a single-step endodontic irrigation solution formulated for use as a final rinse after sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl). Irritrol contains chlorhexadine (CHX) and EDTA to disinfect the root canal and remove the smear layer. According to EDS, it has a proven disinfection rate of 99.99 percent.

This two-in-one endodontic irrigation solution was recently evaluated by 25 Dental Advisor consultants in 44 uses. Irritrol endodontic irrigating solution received a 91 percent clinical rating (4.5 out of 5 stars). The majority of consultants said they would recommend and/or switch to Irritrol.

Recommendations from consultants included the following:

• “During irrigation with Irritrol, an amazing amount of debris is eliminated from the canal. I could see it bubble out.”
• “The green color makes it easy to identify and differentiate from other irrigating solutions.”
• “Simplicity of using our two favorite irrigation products with one solution.”
• “No waiting period for solution to work.”

The consultants who reviewed this irrigation solution rated the product highly for items such as efficiency, ease of use, color, and integration into their endodontic procedures.

Learn more by visiting EDS at AAE16, the annual session of the American Association of Endodontists, April 6-9 in San Francisco, at booth No. 823.

(Source: Essential Dental Systems)

Corrections
Endo Tribune strives to maintain the utmost accuracy in its news and clinical reports. If you find a factual error or content that requires clarification, please report the details to Managing Editor Fred Michmershuizen at fmichmershuizen@dental-tribune.com.

Root Canal Awareness Week is a nationwide effort to encourage patients who need a root canal to see an endodontist to save their natural teeth.

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