Dentine hypersensitivity solution

Colgate has come up with a solution for dentine hypersensitivity relief – a condition which affects nearly 60 per cent of people.

Colgate presented its Pro-Argin technology at the 2009 British Dental Association conference held in Glasgow.

Pro-Argin technology uses a combination of an amino acid, arginine and an insoluble calcium compound, calcium carbonate, to seal open dentine tubules and help block the transmission of heat, cold, air and pressure stimuli to pain receptors within teeth. Colgate has added the technology to a new product, Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief, an in-surgery desensitising polishing paste with Pro-Argin technology.

Dentine hypersensitivity is thought to affect up to 57 per cent of patients worldwide. Current treatment methods include the use of high concentration fluoride or potassium salts. Although with these, patients generally continue to experience dentine hypersensitivity.

Dr. Mark Wolff, chair of the department of cariology and comprehensive care and associate dean for pre-doctoral clinical education at New York University College of Dentistry, said: ‘Correct diagnosis and effective treatment are critical to relieving this condition, which can seriously impact a patient’s quality of life. There is still a need for fast, lasting relief in the dental office.’

He added: ‘Pro-Argin technology will make dentine hypersensitivity a patient complaint that can be easily addressed and managed as part of an overall treatment plan.’

Arginine is an amino acid naturally found in saliva that provides naturally protective oral health benefits. Research has shown that the positively charged arginine in the Pro-Argin technology binds to the negatively charged dentine surface and effectively plug and seal them. Arginine triggers occlusion of the dentine tubules, which remains intact even after exposure to acids, helping to prevent transmission of pain-producing stimuli.

Professor Roger Ellwood, director of clinical research (Europe) at Colgate-Palmolive said: ‘Our Pro-Argin technology not only reinforces Colgate’s commitment to R&D but revolutionises the way dentine hypersensitivity will be treated and prevented.’

The new Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief desensitising paste with Pro-Argin technology is clinically proven to provide immediate relief that lasts for four weeks after a single application. It can be used before or after dental procedures, such as prophylaxis and scaling. When applied prior to a professional dental cleaning, the desensitising paste will provide a significant reduction in dentine hypersensitivity measured immediately following the dental cleaning as compared to a control prophylaxis paste.

For further information call the Colgate Customer Care Team on 01483 401 901 or visit www.colgateprofessional.co.uk.

Wimbledon in surgery

A Scottish dentist had five television screens installed in his surgery so people could watch Andy Murray in action at Wimbledon while having their teeth out.

Cosmetic dentists Lubiju in Leith in Edinburgh had £3,000 worth of 26-inch flatscreen Samsung TV’s installed in five suites in the surgery for the start of Wimbledon.

The television screens were installed above the dentist’s chair so the patient could watch the TV while being treated.

Cosmetic dentist Dr Biju Krishnan, who co-founded Lubiju with dental partner Dr Lubino do Rego said: ‘Even in this day and age, there are people who still have nerves over the dentist, so watching the TV can help take their mind off things – it’s about distracting them from the work at hand and watching TV is great for that.’

‘Everyone was asking to watch Wimbledon though as they wanted to follow the progress of Andy Murray or see how his competitors are doing.’

‘Fortunately no one got too carried away yet cheering in the chair or raising their arms in celebration while I was in their mouth or anything like that.’

Not just the patient in pain?

Let’s face it, after a day in surgery, who wants an aching back, neck and shoulders. It doesn’t stop there either. Pain can stop you working. It is also the most common cause of premature retirement amongst practising dental professionals.

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Happy Backs
Back care courses for Dental Professionals
Colgate launches oral health month

Colgate launched its oral health month at the recent British Dental Association conference. This year the campaign is being run by the manufacturer Colgate, in partnership with the British Dental Association.

The theme for this campaign is ‘A thumbs up for your oral health’. The Department of Health’s evidence-based toolkit for prevention; Delivering Better Oral Health will form the basis of the Colgate Oral Health Month 2009 Continuing Professional Development programme, and offers the dental team the opportunity to participate.

Colgate Oral Health Month 2009 practice packs contain educational materials, motivational stickers, patient samples and materials, which will enable dental teams to create their own display to drive awareness of oral health within their practices. Participating practices are invited to share their displays by submitting photographs for a chance to win an exclusive team-building day.

Colgate Oral Health Month 2009 will run throughout the whole month of September. During this time, a dental road show will travel around the major cities in the UK with hygienists giving tips on oral health and demonstrating appropriate brushing techniques.

Colgate is once again looking to partner with dental professionals in delivering prevention in practice. If you have not been involved in Colgate Oral Health Month before and would like to register to receive a Colgate Oral Health Month pack for your practice, please call Colgate on 0845 257 5468. Please note that one pack per practice will be delivered at the end of August, subject to availability.

Gaining the best skills

Educational resources provider, Smile-on, is now giving dental professionals the chance to gain excellent clinical photography skills.

Its Clinical Photography Course by Chris Orr, is accessible on-line or as a CD-ROM, and is designed to be easily incorporated into and around the working day. It introduces the role of clinical photography in effective risk management and explores straightforward solutions to treatment monitoring and how to benefit from robust medico-legal protection.

Marketing manager for Smile-on, Laura Mckenzie said: ‘Digital cameras are now in common use and with the right approach, dental practices can unlock the astonishing opportunities of this technology. Working with Chris Orr, Smile-on is enabling dental professionals to get to grips with their digital cameras.’

Introducing to S4S

It is not often that a commercial dental laboratory can offer a truly comprehensive service to those clinicians that are actively involved in the treatment of TMJ problems. However, S4S are just such a laboratory, and they were one of several commercial laboratories that exhibited their services at the recent BDA Conference in Glasgow.

What makes S4S different is the fact that it can cater for virtually all the needs of those practitioners who are actively involved in the treatment of patients that suffer from TMJ related problems such as bruxism, TMD pain, snoring and occlusal dysfunction.

Sheffield-based S4S was established in 2005 by co-owners, Matt Everatt and Neil Bullelment, and their appearance at the BDA Conference represented one of their first forays into the retail dental market, and this has proved extremely successful for them.

The laboratory has built an enviable reputation as a provider of custom-made laboratory fabricated appliances, such as Michigan and Tanner splints, orthodontic appliances and highly effective Anti-Snoring devices.

This has also been further enhanced by their appointment as sole UK distributors for the very successful NTI-tss appliance range.

This product has been around for some time, and is well known worldwide. The NTI-tss appliance allows dental practitioners to provide patients with a simple and quickly fabricated splint-like appliance that can be fitted at the chairside, and is very useful in fulfilling the practitioners’ requirements for an immediate temporary splint or de-programming device.

NTI-tss Free CPD

Practical Class

Matt Everatt, Technical Director, is currently conducting CPD sessions for Dentists who wish to use NTI-tss or learn more about treatment with the device.

GPs can arrange to visit their own practice and the whole team can benefit from the presentation on how NTIs can effectively treat bruxism. (contact S4S for your free CPD session)

New treatment modality

The BDA Conference provided S4S with a launch pad for a completely new concept in Bruxism and TMJ treatment options - Grindcare is a ground-breaking treatment modality that can provide both a highly accurate assessment of TMJ muscle dysfunctions, and can also be used to treat TMJ dysfunctions by way of its biofeedback mechanism. S4S have now been appointed as the UK distributors for this product, and it is their intention to establish Grindcare Centres throughout the UK that will be able to make this device available for patients to use in their own home environment.

Grindcare is a medical device that uses EMG measurements and biofeedback that will help the practitioner in the over-all treatment of Bruxism and related TMJ problems. The compact and stylish Grindcare unit was developed in Denmark, and uses state-of-the-art technology. Grindcare is diagnostic-ally valuable, as well as offering treatment, it can record 30 nights consecutively taking data on the patients bruxing habits, such as frequency and intensity of clenching and grinding.

Electrodes are attached to the patient and the machine can provide benefit from the presentation on how NTIs can effectively treat bruxism. (contact S4S for your free CPD session)

The S4S stand at the BDA Conference and Exhibition in Glasgow last month

Relief from the daily grind

Discussing the virtues of S4S’s treatment options and introducing the new Grindcare concept which aims to advance the prospects of successful treatment for bruxism.

Providing two hours of CPD, the course lets participants discover how to keep patients fully informed using high quality images, and how to support comprehensive laboratory appliance services.

The course looks at how to get great image results, focusing on eight key clinical areas, and participants will receive non-obligatory advice on available cameras and the latest in digital imaging.

With excellent clinical photography skills, participants will be able to accurately record treatment progress and development, create ‘baseline’ records of presenting conditions, enjoy a higher standard of referral correspondence and use the images to support professional development.

For more information call 020 7400 8809 or email info@smile-on.com.