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It is quite difficult to accurately predict how every surgical procedure will end up. Most of them are trouble-free and go to plan, but sometimes you may be caught out. In the light of the problems that have arisen in the past we need to warn patients of the possible risks that exist before we can start. This is all part of the consent process and in each case these warnings need to be interpreted to reflect the idiosyncrasies of the patient’s particular circumstances. Attention to detail and a record of the discussion with the patient will not only ensure the best outcome but it will also protect the clinician from any subsequent challenge.

Experiencing discomfort
Consider the case of an elderly patient who attended the dentist complaining of pain in the posterior mandibular area under her existing partial denture. Clinical examination revealed an area of redness and tenderness over the area of her lower right wisdom tooth. A radiograph taken at the time revealed a buried root from a lower eight, which was clearly being irritated by the denture. Although the dentist adjusted the denture, the patient continued to experience discomfort and was advised that the retained root should be removed.

The dentist was aware of the potentially friable nature of the mandible and advised the patient there was always the possibility of a fracture and consequently a risk interfering with the inferior dental nerve. The dental nurse recalls the dentist discussing this with the patient, but unfortunately, no note was made of the warnings in the patient’s dental records. The procedure was uneventful, but the patient did experience some post-operative anaesthesia of her lip subsequent to the operation.

The member referred the patient to a consultant oral surgeon who considered there was little likelihood of a fracture and consequently a risk interfering with the inferior dental nerve. The patient was advised that normal feeling would be unlikely to return.

Always take notes
The patient’s lawyer claimed their client had not been warned of the risks of post-operative anaesthesia. The dentist rebutted this allegation and was quite vehement; as was his assistant that he had warned the patient. Because the dentist had carried out a number of other surgical procedures that same day and there was no documentation of the warning that was given it was the patient’s word against the dentist’s. Because the court will usually view the patient with greater credibility, this case was impossible to defend and so it was settled out of court.

Dental Protection has assisted Admor (www.admor.com) to create a series of consent protocols for procedures with a recognised risk. By using these to document the consent process and storing the completed document in the patient’s record, situations like the one described could be resolved more easily.

Have you got that?
With over 4,500 new cases every year, we can all learn something with Dental Protection. In this issue’s Learning Curve feature, we discuss at worst what could happen if you forget to keep a note of vital conversations with patients.

The only probiotic lozenge specifically formulated for oral health. Changes in oral microflora balance can lead to periodontal disease and caries. GUM PerioBalance is an advanced oral health probiotic that contains Lactobacillus reuteri Prodentis - the only probiotic currently known to produce a beneficial, natural anti-microbial agent that helps prevent the growth of harmful bacteria without affecting the other ‘friendly’ health promoting microorganisms of the mouth. GUM PerioBalance is formulated to help maintain a balanced natural microflora for oral health, decrease bacterial plaque build up, significantly reduce gum bleeding and inflammation, and fight the harmful bacteria in the mouth that are responsible for gum and tooth decay. Used together with tooth brushing and flossing, GUM PerioBalance is an innovation intended to enhance the natural defences of the mouth for improved oral health. Suitable for adults and children of all ages, it is available as a dissolvable lozenge.

IPS e.max Bleach Shades for all-ceramic perfection

The IPS e.max system from Ivoclar Vivadent enables the Laboratory provision of beautiful all-ceramic restorations in an extensive range of indications, including crowns, bridges and veneers. This unique & simple system allows the restoration to be made using CAD/CAM technology or press technology. When IPS e.max is chosen, it offers high precision tissue removal with minimal trauma to surrounding tissues, minimised bleeding for clearer visibility, protection against post-operative infection, minimised scar formation, an enhanced healing effect and less post-operative pain. Weighing 450g, it features the very latest diode technology which means that the unit size is kept to a minimum. The control unit has a clear menu of easy to select functions, while its LED display shows all the treatment parameters.

For further information call Sident Dental Systems on 01925 582000 or email Jcolville@sident.co.uk

Banish Tooth Whitening Sensitivity

Sensitivity is often an issue associated with Tooth Whitening, which applies to both home and power (surgery) whitening procedures.

GC has introduced Tooth Mousse that is the perfect addition to your usual tooth whitening treatments. Apply immediately after tooth whitening to relieve sensitivity caused by dehydration in the surgery or provide your patients with a tube to take home with their home whitening kit.

GC Tooth Mousse is water based, sugar free topical cream that contains Recaldent® CPP-ACP (Caesin Phosphopeptide – Amorphous Calcium Phosphate). This topical paste will provide extra protection for the patients’ teeth. It has been shown that the twice daily use of 1% CPP-ACP solution produced a 19% reduction in enamel demineralisation (Reynolds, 1988).

The kit contains enough material for the treatment of ten teeth and has been cleverly designed to ensure ease of application and handling. Each kit contains two INNERwhite hydrogen peroxide gel syringes (2.5ml), two mixing tips, eight disposable caps for the syringes as well as a plunger and 7.5g of sodium perborate powder.

When CPP-ACP is applied to the tooth surfaces, it binds to biofilms, plaque, bacteria, hydroxyapatite and surrounding soft tissue localising bio-available calcium and phosphate. Saliva also enhances the effectiveness of CPP-ACP and the flavour of the tooth mousse helps to stimulate saliva flow. The longer CPP-ACP is maintained in the mouth, the more effective the result.

There is a wide range of benefits for GC Tooth Mousse. It can be used to provide protection for teeth and to help neutralise an acidic oral environment. Additional professional applications of the mousse will be immediately following bleaching, after ultrasonic, hand scaling or root planing, after removal of orthodontic brackets, following professional tooth cleaning, after applying the treatment and also to provide a topical coating for patients suffering from erosion, caries and conditions arising from xerostomia.

To provide a variety of choices for individual patients, GC Tooth Mousse is available in 5 delicious flavours namely, Strawberry, Melon, Vanilla, Mint and Tutti Frutti!

Sirona Laser SIROLaser The latest “Practice Building” technology for Cosmetic Dentists

Possessing the latest technology is the ideal way to promote your Practice. That is why Sident Dental Systems, the UK’s leading provider of Sirona equipment, believe there has been such a tremendous response to their Sirona SIBOLaser.

SIBOLaser can be used for soft tissue surgery in a variety of cosmetic dentistry applications as well as for disinfection in endodontics or for soft tissue restructuring, treating periodontal pockets, resolving peri-implantitis, and bleaching procedures.

In surgical applications it offers high precision tissue removal with minimal trauma to surrounding tissues, minimised bleeding for clearer visibility, protection against post-operative infection, minimised scar formation, an enhanced healing effect and less post-operative pain. Weighing 450g, it features the very latest diode technology which means that the unit size is kept to a minimum. The control unit has a clear menu of easy to select functions, while its LED display shows all the treatment parameters.

For further information call Sident Dental Systems on 01925 582000 or email Jcolville@sident.co.uk

Learn More from Sirona!

With the huge success of CEREC CAD/CAM, Sirona Dental Systems place a greater emphasis on training. With over 22,000 systems worldwide, Sirona has been able to produce an even higher level of training, which is unrivalled by any other manufacturer. Sirona now has a blueprint of over 20 years in training CEREC users of all levels whether you are an experienced CEREC user or someone who has just taken delivery of their CEREC for the first time. Our training is designed to ensure new users gain confidence quickly whilst those more experienced users look to carry out more complicated cases.

Cool Kiss 50 in surgery kits. For professionals who prefer to mix the whitening paste how they prefer. These are bulk treatment kits for 50 or 50 applicators, that includes a-silicone self curing gingival protection.

Mini cool blue system light is face mounted, Ultra light weight weighing only 75g. It clips onto chert retractor, is comfortable for patient, effective, easy to use, and features a time totaliser, and key lock to prevent unauthorised use.

See how we can increase your income and you profits at www.dentoid.co.uk.

Dentoid Ltd, 2 Wells Green Gardens, Holmfirth, HD9 3HP, West Yorkshire. telephone 01484-684400 Fax 01484-688559 email info@dentoid.co.uk

Contact Mike Dickinson

VivaStyle The Complete Serious Whitening System

Ultilising carbamide peroxide oxygen releasing agents the Vi- vaStyle range has a gentle, but effective action on tooth structure. It is available in various concentrations of two basic presentations – VivaStyle and VivaStyle Paint On Plus - each designed with a different application in mind.

VivaStyle gel is applied (according to a Dentist’s instructions) by the patient at home, for an hour or longer per day, using an individually customised tray. It is available with either 10% or 16% carbamide peroxide content.

VivaStyle Paint On Plus is recommended for patients if they don’t want or can’t afford fitted trays. Applied by brush, the varnish remains on the teeth for 10 minutes before being removed with a toothbrush. This procedure is normally performed twice daily for 7 days. It can be used to whiten the complete den-