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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.

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.

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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. Which ever option is chosen, they offer enhanced aesthetics and biocompatibility compared with metal-ceramic restorations, and many believe the best restorative system allows the restoration to be made using CAD/CAM technology.

For further details contact your local Representative, visit www.ivoclarvivadent.com or telephone 0161 284 7880.

the SIBOLaser

The latest “Practice Building” technology for Cosmetic Dentists

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

SIBOLaser can be used for soft tissue surgery in a variety of cosmetic dentistry applications as well as for disinfection in endodontics, ﬂooding, crown lengthening, treating periodontal pockets, resolving peri-implantitis, and bleaching preparations. In surgical applications it offers high precision tissue re- moval with minimal trauma to surrounding tissues, minimised bleeding for clearer vision, protection from post-operative infection, minimised scar formation, an enhanced healing response and to post-operative pain. Weighing 450gm, 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 lists all the treatment parameters.

For further information call Sudent Dental Systems on 01952 582800 or email Joulville@sudent.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 ad- junct to your usual tooth whitening treatments. Apply im mediately after tooth whitening to re- lieve sensitivity caused by dehy- dration 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 (Carboxyl Phosphate Hydroxylapatite – 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).

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 efﬁcacy 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 ben- eﬁts for GC Tooth Mousse. It can be used to provide protection for teeth and to help neut- ralise an acidic oral environ- ment. Additional professional applications of the mousse will be immediately following bleaching, after ultrasonic scaling, after removal of orthodontic brackets, following profes- sional tooth cleaning, after ap- plication of sealants to provide a topical coating for patients suffering from ero- sion, cavities and conditions aris- ing from xerostomia.

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

For further information please contact GC UK on (0044) 1908 218999 ore-mail info@uk.gcuerope.com.

Dentist Tooth Whitening Systems

Dentist stocks a range of rea- sonably priced tooth whitening products for in surgery or at home use.

Blue lightening 40 is an in surgery premixed gel system with a different application in surgery premixed gel system with a different application. The hydrogen peroxide gel is only activated when ex- pressed from the tube. Kit also contains gingival barrier and silky touch lip cream.

Blue lightening Home is an at home kit containing high sta- bility gel, that is only activated by saliva. The peroxide therefore does not break own before use, as it is passive. It does not contain carboxylic acid causing irritation.

The kit contains enough ma- terial for the present size of teeth and has been cleverly de- signed to ensure ease of applica- tion and handling. Each kit con- tains 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.

The Dental Directory on 0800 585586.