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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 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.

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.

Watch out for another Learning Curve from Dental Protection in future editions of Dental Tribune UK.

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 micro-organisms of the mouth.

GUM PerioBalance is formulated to help maintain a balanced natural micro flora 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.

IP S 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. Whether sintered or unfired, the restoration is then finished with the new universal Nano-Fluorapatite Glass Ceramic, e.max ceram. Alternatively, IPS e.max CAD enables Dentists to provide precision fitting IPS e.max restorations chairside using the CEREC system. Whichever option is chosen, they offer enhanced aesthetics and biocompatibility compared with metal-ceramic restorations, and many believe the best restorative material for both dentists and patients.In surgical applications it can be used for periodontal treatment, crown lengthening, treating peri-implantitis, and bleaching procedures. In surgical applications it can also be used to whiten the complete denture. For professionals who prefer to mix the whitening paste how they prefer. These are bulk treat ment kits for 15 or 50 applications, that includes a-silicone self curing gingival protection.

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

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Vivastyle

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Utilising carbamide peroxide oxygen releasing agents the Vivastyle range has a gentle, but efective 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-