“Do no harm” is assumed and is an ethic that is expected. In general, there are at least two ways to do harm: sins of commission and sins of omission. A dentist can harm a patient with the knowledge that he knows and with what he does not know.

The words excellence, ethics, professionalism and leadership are just a few of the terms emphasized by the American College of Dentists in its mission statement that applies to every dentist.

This mission statement is a great start for each of us to consider, reflecting the purpose of the services that we provide to our patients and staff; it should guide our actions, spell out our goals, provide a sense of direction and guide our ultimate decision-making.

It should provide the framework or context within which our objectives are formulated, proposed and performed.

A fundamental and basic aim of orthodontic education is to explain and demonstrate comprehensive understanding and empathy for the patient’s comfort, health and best interests. This will help the students develop greater understanding of the cultural differences and boundaries of our diverse patient population.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link, and in order to provide optimal health care for our patients, the orthodontist and staff must strive to work in concert with each other. However, the heart of our concerns should be focused on compassion, understanding and empathy for the patient’s comfort, health and best interest.

Only through thoughtful supervision, planning, congruity and focus can these needs and objectives of the orthodontist be achieved at the highest level.

Reference