

ROOT WORDS

Promoting just a little bit of knowledge...and a whole lot of Healthy Smiles

Mission Statement

To provide excellent endodontic care in a professional, friendly environment by a highly trained and motivated team!

We work to fulfill our mission by making patient care our #1 goal.

WILLIAM L. BEASLEY, D.D.S.
LESLIE B. HARDY, JR., D.D.S.
DAYNA S. DUKE, D.D.S.
MYRON S. HILTON, D.D.S.
DAVID C. BIRD, D.D.S.

NETWORK PROVIDERS
FOR CIGNA PPO,
DELTA DENTAL,
AETNA PPO &
AETNA DMO

4500 MEMORIAL CIRCLE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73142

8101 SOUTH WALKER
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73139

(405) 748-6000
1-800-522-9609
FAX (405) 749-5900

www.eaokc.com

The Impact of Bisphosphonates on Treatment Planning

Bisphosphonates are a class of drugs that have been used in treating osteoporosis and certain cancers. One of the potential side effects of bisphosphonates is the risk of developing Bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (BRONJ).

Because there are no available randomized controlled trials or higher levels of clinical evidence, many expert opinions, case reports and position statements have been published within dental field to assist in decision-making during treatment planning and in diagnosis of BRONJ. The following is a high level summary of statements taken from the AAE, ADA and AAOMS.

Definition—Current or previous treatment with a bisphosphonate combined with exposed, necrotic bone in the maxillofacial region that has persisted for more than eight weeks without a history of radiation therapy to the jaws.

Differential Diagnosis—BRONJ may be mistaken for several other conditions including alveolar osteitis, sinusitis, gingivitis/periodontitis, caries, periapical pathology and TMJ disorders.

Risk Factors and Incidence—Current published data for BRONJ are limited to retrospective studies with limited sample size. However, these studies show that patients receiving bisphosphonates intravenously for over two years have a cumulative incidence of BRONJ between 0.8% and 20%. Patients taking oral bisphosphonates have a cumulative incidence of BRONJ between 0 and 0.04%. Additional risk

factors may include history of a traumatic dental procedure or inflammatory dental disease, age, corticosteroid therapy, diabetes, smoking, poor oral hygiene or chemotherapeutic drugs.

Prevention—A patient on bisphosphonates should be informed about the symptoms of BRONJ and their relatively low risk of developing BRONJ from surgery or soft tissue procedures. Oral hygiene should be emphasized. Prior to treatment with IV bisphosphonates, a thorough oral examination with extraction of unsalvageable teeth, as well as the performance of any other invasive surgical procedures, should be completed. Patients taking IV bisphosphonates should receive preventative care and if necessary appropriate endodontic treatment, which might include nonsurgical endodontic treatment of teeth that otherwise would be extracted and non-restorable teeth may be treated by removal of the crown, endodontic treatment of remaining roots and restoration.

Treatment—Treatment for BRONJ is problematic. Case reports document no response or a limited response to local surgical wound debridement, marginal or segmental resection, antibiotics and hyperbaric oxygen. Therefore, recognition of risk factors and application of preventive dental treatment procedures are important for patients taking I.V. and oral bisphosphonates.

Dr. David Bird earned his D.D.S. degree from the University of the Pacific in San Francisco, going on to complete his endodontic training at the Baylor College of Dentistry in Texas.

Quality Patient Care in a Comfortable Environment

The New Face of Marketing

Most of you recognize Gina Cannon Mertens as our Marketing Coordinator.

She joined us in 1999 as one of our Business Assistants and moved into the marketing position in 2005. After 14 years with our practice, Gina has decided to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. She is currently in the Teacher Education Program at UCO and plans to focus her final year on her studies, which include student teaching next spring.

Our marketing efforts will continue and the new coordinator will be Sherri Liebel. If this name sounds familiar, it probably is. Sherri has been at our front desk for the past six years and has assisted many of you with the scheduling of your patients.

Sherri has worked in dentistry for the past 38 years, and has experience not only at the front desk, but also as a chairside assistant. You are sure to love her cheerful demeanor and kind spirit.



Sherri will be taking over as marketing coordinator when Gina leaves in May to become a teacher!

Gina will miss her visits with all of you, but is happy to be leaving with the friendships she has made. Sherri is excited about the future and getting to know you better!

Be on the lookout for these two ladies! They will be making visits to your offices before Gina leaves in May ■

Congratulations...

to our February Lottery Winners, both of whom are enjoying their new Nooks!

Be Sure and Enter Our Next Lottery!



Bonney Warden
Dr. Kristi Cobb's Office
Mustang



Katie Hawzen
Dr. Melanie Emerson's Office
Midwest City

Hold the Date for our 2013 Annual Seminar on August 23

Nutritionist David Mainz claims it's not what you eat between Christmas and New Year's that matters, but rather, the other way around...it's what you eat between New Year's and Christmas!

He speaks nationally to dental groups, and will be our featured speaker at EA's annual seminar on August 23. The event is for both doctors and staff.

Meinz is a contributing editor to the Journal of the Academy of General Dentistry, as well as a frequent guest on radio and television. You'll learn the best and worst foods for your teeth, which foods help manage stress, and much more ■



You'll enjoy David Mainz' sense of humor as much as you will benefit from his information.

Please share this fun and helpful information with your staff by passing on *ROOT WORDS*! If you would like additional copies of this newsletter, please call Gina at Endodontic Associates, (405) 748-6000 or (800) 522-9609.