

# 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.*

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## Two Common Canal Irrigants

Part of the instrumentation process for the root canal space requires irrigation to assist in the removal of bacteria and necrotic tissue, as well as giving lubrication for the instruments. None of the materials currently used meet the ideal quality of being bactericidal, tissue-dissolving and non-caustic, or toxic. Below is a summary of the two most common irrigants used in endodontics.

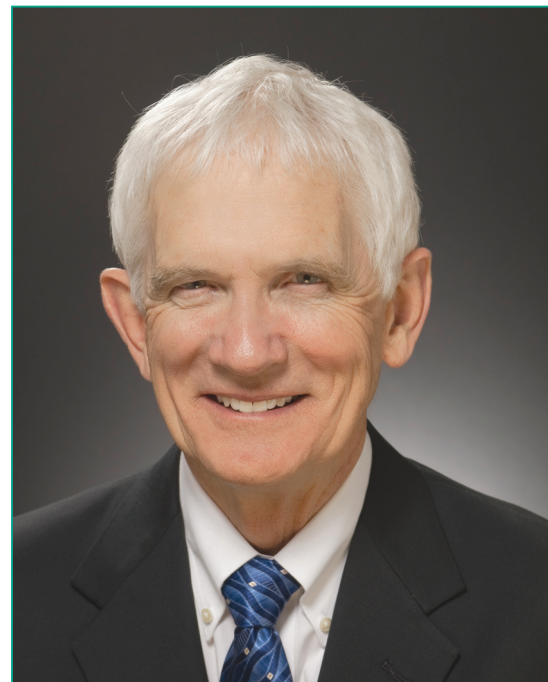
### Sodium Hypochlorite

This is the most commonly used of the irrigants. Sodium Hypochlorite is bactericidal and dissolves necrotic tissue. Concentrations can vary, but the most commonly-used strength is full strength, or 5.25%, which is found in common household bleach.

Some have advocated heating the solution, although there is some evidence that this may lessen the effectiveness of the material. The key component is the free chlorine radical being present.

The biggest problem with the product is the potential to cause severe post-operative problems if it is extruded out the end of the tooth. For that reason, it is recommended that a special irrigating needle that vents out the side of the needle be used. This prevents a wedging of the irrigation needle in the canal and forcing the fluid apically.

It is also wise to be judicious if you are dealing with an incomplete apex, as the wide apical opening could allow



**Dr. Leslie B. Hardy, Jr., D.D.S.**

more fluid than you want entering the periapical space.

### EDTA

EDTA is very effective as decalcification irrigant. It is mostly used to eliminate the smear layer that develops during instrumentation. This helps the sealer penetrate the tubules, thus giving a better seal in the canal.

It is not recommended to use this alone, as there is no antibacterial component to it. Typically this is used in conjunction with Sodium Hypochlorite as part of a dual irrigation protocol.

Using both in an alternating fashion gives good antibacterial activity, dissolving of necrotic tissue and removal of the smear layer of the canals.



Quality Patient Care in a Comfortable Environment

## Backpacks for Needy Kids



***For our Christmas project this year, EA collected 221 pounds of food for the Food Bank's "Backpacks for Kids" program. This program sends backpacks full of kid-friendly food home with chronically hungry kids who may otherwise not get a meal over the weekend.***



***Merry Christmas! Cara, Candy, Sherri, Jessica, Susana, Chavel, Ann Marie & Adrienne show off their festive outfits at the Christmas Party!***

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 Sherri at Endodontic Associates, (405) 748-6000 or (800) 522-9609.

## Staff Vitals Janet Chaney



**Janet Chaney**  
Dental Assistant

Janet joined our team toward the end of 2012 after completing the dental assisting program at ATI.

She enjoys working in the fast paced environment and "loves the doctors and her co-workers."

When she is not working, she is with her two children DaJaun and Rhyanne. They like to spend time outside, camping, swimming and playing T-ball.

Janet is expecting a new member to her family in February! Congratulations, Janet!

## Bravo

■ Dr. Justin Beasley was inducted into the American College of Dentistry in October. Justin's father and Endodontic Associates founder Dr. Lee Beasley was 50 years old when he received this honor. Bravo, Dr. Beasley!