

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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Photons, Posts & Potpourri

I have been fortunate in recent years to attend an annual international forum in which endodontic researchers, clinicians and academicians gather to discuss current topics in our specialty. I thought it would be insightful to share some random tidbits of information from our recent meeting.

The use of CBCT technology continues to increase within endodontics for several reasons. One recent study demonstrated a change in diagnosis or treatment planning in 53% of cases when CBCT imaging was used. Improvements in risk assessment and treatment efficiencies and outcomes combined with a reduction in treatment complications have been noted. Regarding exposure risks with CBCT imaging, there remains no proof that photons from diagnostic radiation cause damage to DNA. The safe limit for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation has been established at 50 millisieverts per year (whole body). That roughly equates to 25,000 CBCT scans!

Post placement has been advocated for restoring damaged teeth where two or less cavity walls remain (or will remain after axial reduction for crown preparation). In recent years, fiber posts have been promoted as more esthetic, easier to remove and more closely matching the elastic modulus of dentin, presumably then less likely to contribute to root fracture. Newly published in vivo studies have

demonstrated post rigidity (metal or fiber) has no impact on the occurrence of root fractures—provided a minimum 2mm ferrule is present and the post is passively placed.

The median survival time for various restorations was recently reported as 1) **Amalgam** - 12.8 years 2) **Composite** - 7.8 years 3) **Crown** - 14.6 years. Success rates for implants have been declining and were recently reported to be 86% and 81% when placed by specialists and generalists respectively.

A pre-endo check list should include the following: Is a 2 mm ferrule present around the tooth? Will there be sufficient (2mm) biologic width remaining? Will the treatment be esthetically acceptable? Does the patient want to retain the tooth and are they willing to undergo root canal therapy? Is the alveolar bone support greater than 50% of the remaining root structure?

I hope this provides some quick and useful information to help in your daily practice. The doctors and staff at Endodontic Associates have appreciated working with you throughout the year and wish you a fulfilling and prosperous 2016! ■



Dr. Myron Hilton earned his D.D.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry and completed his specialty training in endodontics at Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry.

Quality Patient Care in a Comfortable Environment

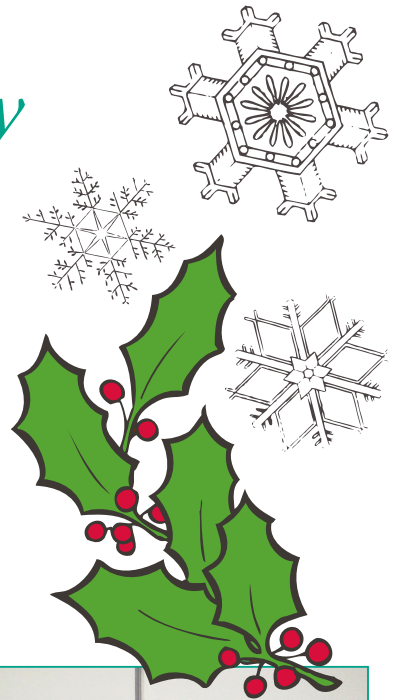
Scenes from the EA Christmas Party



Hillary, Laura and Franki



Reba and Sherri



Jessica and Sherri



River and Dr. Duke



Dr. Schultz and EA Staff



Dr. Hardy and EA Staff



Chavel, Brittany and Hillary