

THE JOURNAL OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Dimensions

OF DENTAL HYGIENE

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Dimensions of Dental Hygiene is a monthly, peer reviewed journal that reconnects practicing dental hygienists with the nation's leading educators and researchers

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Three-Dimensional Imaging

Cone-beam computed tomography can offer improved diagnosis capability in the dental office, but it must be used prudently.

The Information Revolution

How dental informatics is changing the practice of oral health care.

Every Moment Counts

All dental team members must be prepared to provide an immediate and coordinated emergency response for patients experiencing chest pain or cardiac arrest in the dental office.

Demystifying Occlusion

Dental hygienists can help their patients prevent significant occlusal problems with education and assessment.

Past Issues



Following the spring rains, *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene's* May issue is sprouting with informative and highly educational content that's bound to raise your level of practice. Be sure to check out our feature articles on hand instrumentation, remineralization, and the use of lasers. In addition to three continuing education (CE) articles, this issue offers several special supplements.

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The April issue of *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene* is a celebration. Accompanying our traditional, information-filled journal this month is the special supplement, A Centennial Celebration of Dental Hygiene, honoring 100 years of the profession. It's a keepsake edition that chronicles all facets of dental hygiene from 1913 to the present, and you won't want to miss it.

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About Us

Mission

Dimensions of Dental Hygiene is committed to the highest standards of professionalism, accuracy and integrity in our mission of education supporting oral health care professionals and those allied with the dental industry. Through our print and digital media platforms, continuing education activities, and events, we strive to deliver relevant, cutting-edge information designed to support the highest level of oral health care.

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NEWS

Fluoride Varnish May Keep Kids Safe From Tooth Decay



Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, recently published their results on the efficacy of fluoride varnish in preventing tooth decay in very young children. The study, published in the February issue of the *Journal of Dental Research*, looked at caries-free infants and young children from low income, mostly Asian or Latino families in San Francisco. The researchers found that the children who received fluoride varnish application twice per year over a 2-year period in combination with counseling on oral health were the least likely to develop tooth decay in comparison to the group that did not receive fluoride varnish at all and the group that received fluoride varnish once annually over the same 2-year timeframe. All families received counseling on oral health. The study had 280 participants. The average age of participants was 1.8 years old, with an age range of 6 months to 44 months. The study is available online at: <http://jdr.iadrjournals.org>.

Free Dental Clinic Encourages Careers In Dentistry and Dental Hygiene



San Diego is similar to many large cities in the United States—it has a large dentally underserved population. Since 1999, the University of California, San Diego, (UCSD) Student-run Free Dental Clinic Project has strived to provide oral health care to San Diegans without access to dental services. The program is unique as UCSD does not have a dental school. The clinic pairs undergraduate students who are interested in careers in dentistry or dental hygiene with volunteer dentists and hygienists who mentor the students and provide the hands-on clinical care to patients. The program provides much needed dental care through three no cost clinics in the greater San Diego area while also exposing students to the professions of dentistry and dental hygiene. Many of the baccalaureate students continue on to dental schools after their experience with the clinic. The project is directed by Irvin B. Silverstein, DDS, MSED, a periodontist in private practice and teacher at Southwestern Hygiene School, National City, Calif. Funded through donations, the clinic serves approximately 400 patients per year. For more information about the program, visit <http://acs.ucsd.edu/~ucsdfdc>.

Obesity and Oral Health

In a supplement to the November 2005 issue of *Journal of Periodontology*, a study was published illustrating a link between obesity and periodontal disease. Researchers at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, determined that obesity is a predictor of periodontal disease regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, and smoking. The study looked at 12,367 non-diabetic participants aged 20 to 90 years old.

Erratum The news story "California Hygienists Treat Underserved in Independent Practice" (February 2006, page 12), which was based on a story appearing in the *Contra Costa Times*, inferred that the California Dental Association (CDA) had been supportive of the new registered dental hygienists in alternative practice (RDHAP) licensure in California. While the *Contra Costa Times* story indicated that the CDA is supportive of the RDHAP category, the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA) reminds us of the many years of tireless efforts made by California hygienists to successfully create this licensure category despite opposition from CDA. CDA only supports the licensure with the requirement that prospective patients receive a prescription from their dentist or physician before receiving treatment from an RDHAP. CDHA is currently lobbying for the passage of bill AB 1334, which would eliminate the prescription requirement.

For updates on legislative events happening nationwide, please check the ADHA's website, www.adha.org, for the most current information about changes in your state.

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