

Differential Diagnosis of Orofacial Pain

Our own **Dr. Henry Gremillion** lectured recently in Baton Rouge. The course, “New Vistas in Dentistry from Diagnosis to Treatment” was excellent, which is what we have all come to expect from this local boy made good. A graduate of LSUSD, he continued to earn a fellowship in Craniofacial Pain at University of Florida College of Dentistry. After that, he continues to gain global recognition for his work in facial pain with his mentor, Dr. Parker E. Mahan.

There are four main categories of orofacial pain:

- **Somatic** (local oral/perioral tissue injury or inflammation)
- **Musculoskeletal** (TMD)
- **Neuropathic** (neuralgias, deafferentation, dyesthesia)
- **Headache** (migraine or tension-type)

Determining the origin of a patient’s pain is essential to effectively alleviating symptoms. It is surprising to learn the statistics of how many people deal with chronic or recurrent pain symptoms (a staggering 57% in Louisiana last year!). Pain has a tremendously negative impact on peoples lives, as it increases the sympathetic nervous system, **decreases the immune system**, which leads to a decline in a patients health and well being, ultimately leading to a decline in both the quality and quantity (longevity) of life.

Enclosed is a guide that we hope will prove a useful tool to help you unlock the mysteries behind your patient’s pain. One side of the guide lists pre-clinical questions to help carry out dental pain triage, while the reverse has diagrams that reflect muscle triggers that mimic dental pain.

To contact, or for more information about Dr. Gremillion, please visit his website at <http://www.ufl.edu/spotlight/gremillion.html> .

Get the 411 on the NPI

The NPI is the standard unique health identifier for health care providers. The NPI was mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Anyone who meets the definition of a Health Care Provider will need an NPI. The current **date for mandated adoption and usage of NPI is May 23, 2007**. The NPI is intended to replace the use of all legacy provider identifiers (e.g., UPIN, License Number, Medicaid Provider Number, Medicare Provider Number, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Numbers) in HIPAA standard transactions as of the compliance

dates. It is also **expected to simplify transactions, including claims and coordination of benefits**, and may save money in the long term.

We applied for our NPI number electronically. It was a very simple process, and took less than 10 minutes to complete online. **Be prepared to create a unique login name and password.** We received our NPI number via email less than 24 hours after submitting our application.

For information about the NPI, to request an application, or to apply electronically, please visit: www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov . You can also contact the NPI call center at 800-465-3203.

Implant Maxi Course

Beginning in March I will be **participating in a yearlong implant program at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry that has had a separate implant department for 30 years.** This program is unique in that they combine proven methods of live demonstration, participant interaction, group discussion, diagnosis and treatment planning, and instructional materials.

With an in-depth program combining lectures and hands-on clinical exercises, participants will begin the morning with a lecture and **hands-on portions** emphasizing the surgical and prosthodontic focus of implant dentistry. After lunch, group discussion related to diagnosis and treatment planning will accompany live surgical demonstrations performed by not only the faculty and residents, but also the participants themselves. Each course will finish off with an up-to-date and informative topic presented by a guest lecturer.

This study club is unique in that it allows the participants to not only observe live surgeries but to interact directly with the faculty and residents as the surgery progresses. It is this symbiotic relationship that enhances the total educational experience for all those who participate. **At the conclusion, participants are eligible to become Fellows in the Academy of Implant Dentistry.** For more information about LLUSD's continuing education programs, please visit:

<http://www.llu.edu/llu/dentistry/> .

Be Prepared: Emergencies Do Happen

Medical emergencies can happen at any time, as we experienced on a recent flight to Loma Linda. On February 8th, **I will be attending training in Advanced Cardiac Life Support to receive certification (along with this is an update for oral sedation of medically compromised patients).** It was eye opening to be in a situation where the life support training we are required to have may be the only option to save a patient's life. Consider obtaining ACLS certification for yourself- it may be the best training you hope to never need.

For information about oral sedation or ACLS certification please visit:

<http://www.docseducation.com/docs/home.asp>

The compliment of your confidence is shown by your trust in referring your patients. We appreciate the opportunities we have to work with you. Often, the best outcome is achieved by a team approach. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your team.

With best wishes for continued success and a healthy and happy 2007,

Catherine