

Spring 2006

Answers for Current Marcaine and Carbocaine Shortages

Recently we faxed an announcement regarding the shortage of Marcaine that was soon to impact dentistry. We have been closely following this situation and hoped to have good news, meaning that Marcaine was back to normal availability. **Unfortunately, not only is Marcaine still unavailable, but Carbocaine is in the same boat.**

Per ADA News, posted online on 5/5/2006: “**Anytime there is a supply change for a product, the new supplier is required to file an application with the Food and Drug Administration.**” Marcaine and Carbocaine are distributed by Kodak, which learned in 2005 that the previous suppliers had decided to stop production. **The new suppliers, whose names have not been made public, are currently waiting for FDA approval to supply Marcaine and Carbocaine. Once approval is received, Kodak will announce the new availability date.**

Fortunately, Marcaine is still available in a multi-dose vial, and Citanest is a viable substitute for Carbocaine, so this shortage has not caused any interruption of service in our office. We have been drawing up our own Marcaine syringes using 3cc Luer-lock syringes. We were greatly relieved to find an alternative means to continue to deliver the level of anesthesia that our patients require.

For your convenience regarding other dental anesthetics, we have included a laminated guide that reflects maximum doses, onset and duration. Please let us know if you'd like additional copies.

LDA Radiographic Certification

In a previous newsletter, we mentioned the **LDA's new program for radiographic certification.** Two members of our team, Steven and our lab assistant, Barry, used this system to obtain their certification.

In our assessment it worked like a charm. The program, through **MEDCOM,** is very convenient, affordable and uncomplicated. **Within a couple of weeks we received their certificates, though no celebratory ceremony was held.**

To order, call the LDA at 800-388-6642, (225) 926-1986, e-mail info@ladental.org or download an order form from the LDA website, www.ladental.org, and mail or fax as stated on the form.

Office News and Updates

At the end of March, our team attended comprehensive software training in Hawaii. Our endodontic software, The Digital Office, (developed by Dr. Gary Carr, renowned endodontist from San Diego aka “The Father of Microscopic Dentistry”) is constantly undergoing improvements and enhancements; so annual training is a must. **While there, Dr. Hebert island-hopped to Honolulu to attend an implant course at the AAE 2006 Scientific Session.**

In May and July there are additional implant courses that Dr. Hebert will attend in San Diego (instructed by Dr. Gary Carr) and Denver (instructed by Dr. Chad Reader). At the Denver course, Crystal and Coleen will be in attendance as well. **While we are attending these courses, our business office will remain open and available to assist you and your patients with any scheduling needs.**

The Ultimate Dental Beach Book

At a recent study club meeting, Dr. Ed Burvant did an amazing presentation that focused on the book, “The Art of the Examination: Why Patient Care Goes Beyond Clinical Correctness” by Dr. Barry Polansky. Dr. Polansky has been featured in numerous dental publications, and is currently the editor and publisher of the “Private Practice” newsletter.

Dr. Polansky brilliantly demonstrates how the examination process is the critical building block, both clinically and emotionally, in the dental practice. Divided into four sections, the book explores dentistry’s image from within and without, and explains how the examination process influences a patient’s perception of the dentist and the overall practice. **While Dr. Polansky shares his systematic approach to examination, his purpose is to assist the reader to develop his or her own unique examination system, and to use that system to set the tone for their practice and build trusting relationships with patients.**

If you read just one book this summer, this is definitely an excellent selection. Well written, and filled with many pearls (including a foreword by Dr. Paddi Lund) this book is a steal at \$99.95. It can be purchased online at www.drbarrypolansky.com.

Trust and confidence come in many forms, but there are none greater than the referral of a patient. Thank you for the honor of working with you, your patients and your team. Our pride is in our service!

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Summer Season,

Catherine