

## News from Our Office

### **Current News at PIA:**

In order to better serve your patients, we are proud to announce that our Hygienist, Treatment Coordinators, and our lead surgical assistants are now certified by the International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Earn CE credits at our events!**

On Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 6 to 8pm at the ADS office in Oakbrook Terrace, please join us for an ADS Study Club: Dr. Eric Osmolinski presents "Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office... What Should You Do?"

On Wednesday, May 2, 2012 from 6 to 8pm at the Grotto in Oakbrook, please join us for a lecture by Dr. Amarik Singh on "The Dental Practitioner's Role in the Maintenance of Dental Implants"

### **In the Media:**

Don't miss Dr. Amarik Singh in the Spring Issue of Hinsdale Magazine 60521.

## Clinical Update

### **Root Canal Treatment or Apicoectomy?**

**By Dr. Fernando Urzua, D.D.S.**

When the pulp of the tooth becomes infected or dies, root canal therapy is the recommended treatment to save the tooth. Traditional endodontic therapy in teeth with a favorable prognosis typically will rectify the problem. In some cases, root canal therapy does not heal the tooth or more likely the tooth may become reinfected and additional treatment may become necessary at a later time.

The two most common options to treat a tooth that has not responded to root canal therapy are **root canal retreatment** or an **apicoectomy**. The question now arises, how do we choose between the two?

Root canal retreatment involves a non-surgical approach to cleaning the infected canals of the tooth. In our practice, a state-of-the-art endodontic microscope is used to facilitate the cleansing of the existing canals. The microscope also helps to locate any additional canals that may have been missed during the first procedure. When possible, the more conservative and less invasive retreatment approach is preferred.

In certain cases, retreatment is not an option and endodontic surgery may be required. Conditions that would call for an apicoectomy include:

- An uncleaned root canal blocked by a fractured file that cannot be removed
- A fracture or crack on the tooth roots
- A severely curved root canal obstructing endodontic files from reaching the apex of the root
- Several small branches at the sides of the root canal that cannot be properly cleaned and sealed
- Other conditions that obstruct healing after root canal treatment

During an apicoectomy, the endodontist or treating surgeon surgically accesses the infected abscess in the jawbone. In our office, this is done utilizing a microsurgical approach and using the latest materials and technology including CT scan technology, ultrasonics and the newest regenerative products. The infected tissue is removed at the apex of the root and the root is then sealed. When necessary, the surgical site will be grafted with regenerative material to facilitate the regrowth of bone around the infected root and adjacent teeth.

Both methods are very successful at treating teeth with failed root canals. Our preference, and that of virtually all patients and their doctors, is a conservative approach, i.e. retreatment. In addition, if a patient has a medical history that prohibits surgical therapy, retreatment must be chosen. The proximity of certain teeth to critical nerves in and around the jaw can also prohibit surgical treatment. Using our scan technology as needed, we are able to easily determine the best approach for each patient.

Endodontic retreatment and apicoectomies are both viable and predictable options for the treatment of teeth with failed initial root canal therapy. It is important that the specialist, patient and restorative doctor all communicate and discuss all benefits, risks and restorative considerations of both options prior to choosing which solution is best for each individual patient.

Dr. Urzua received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Michigan in 2007 and his Certificate of Endodontics from Tufts University in Boston, MA in 2009. Dr. Urzua performs all endodontic treatments using the most current equipment and is committed to providing your patients with the highest standard of care.



**The goal in our practice is to serve our referring doctors and their patients with excellence in both periodontal therapy and dental implant care. We strive to create a warm and friendly environment. We provide customized patient care where the clinical and emotional needs of each patient are met. While our entire team is proud of the care we provide, we can never forget that we must earn your trust, and that of your patients, every day. Thank you for the chance to serve you and please feel free to let us know if there is anything you need from our office.**