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January 2005

from Gregory Tarantola DDS



Greetings!

Tarantola Dental Learning is dedicated to helping dentists and their team of staff, specialists and technicians learn and apply the principles of comprehensive, masticatory system dentistry in a relationship-based environment. That means promoting and maintaining optimal health, function and esthetics of all the components of the masticatory system, that is, the TMJs, the neuromuscular system, the dentition, the periodontium and occlusal bio-engineering. And accomplishing this in a way that is appropriate for that particular patient, that is, with their interest and active participation.

Remember this formula for "Peace Of Mind" in your practice:

NP (or EP)+E+D+TP+TS+CA=PS

New Patient (or Existing Patient)+Examination+Diagnosis+ Treatment
Planning+Treatment Sequencing+Case Acceptance=Predictable Success

Thanks to Charles W Martin, DDS, MAGD, DICOI, FIADFE
LeadershipMastermindCoaching.com for suggesting the enhancements to the above
formula for success.

This month's inspirational quote:

"If the creator had a purpose in equipping us with a neck, he surely meant us to stick it out."

Arthur Koestler, 1905-1983, Hungarian Born British Writer

Thought For The Month

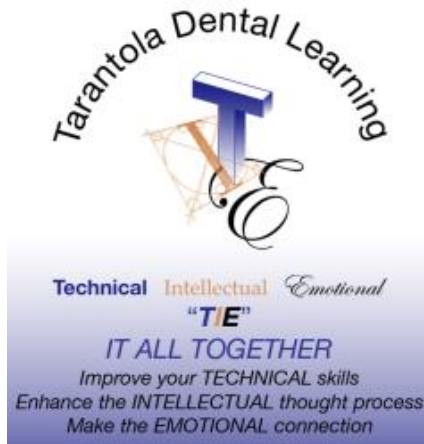
30 VITAL LEADERSHIP ACTIONS

It is 2005!! Unbelievable! I wish everyone happiness, prosperity and peace of mind for the coming year. I firmly believe the best path to this "wish" is a vision and leadership to get there. The following article could go a long way at setting the standard for us for 2005.



- [Go to the article.](#)

UNIQUE LEARNING CDs



See us at the CHICAGO MIDWINTER MEETING, Feb 25-27 Booth 243

Dr. Tarantola lectures Feb 24-26

Enjoy the peace of mind and fulfillment of practicing comprehensive-care, relationship-based, masticatory system dentistry! These **SELF-STUDY LEARNING MODULES ON CD** are a great review and reference for those already practicing masticatory system dentistry and also a great starting point for those wanting to learn more about this approach. The learning modules are very visual, the text is to-the-point outline style, and the photo table of contents is linked to every page making it extremely easy to navigate

and refer back to over and over. You'll find it a GREAT value...and of course, with a money-back guarantee!

"How often have you gone to a continuing education course and wished that you were back in your own office doing dentistry? How many times have you sat through hours upon hours of lectures only to get one pearl of information that took mere seconds to dispense? What if there was a way to get quality condensed information delivered to your door that you would be able to watch on your computer? Now, what if I told you that you could, and the answer was Tarantola Dental Learning CD-ROMs?" Dr. H.F., DDS, MBA

- [Click here to see Tarantola Dental Learning](#)

JANUARY CLINICAL TIP



Designing An Appropriate Treatment Plan, Sequence and Fee.

Last month's clinical tip was a step by step discussion of the diagnostic blueprint for our case study patient that we have been following for the past several months. The previous several month's Clinical Tips are still on the website for your review.

Now that all aspects of the desired form and function of the case are visualized with the blueprint, we will discuss

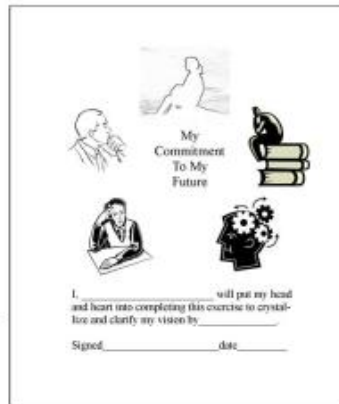
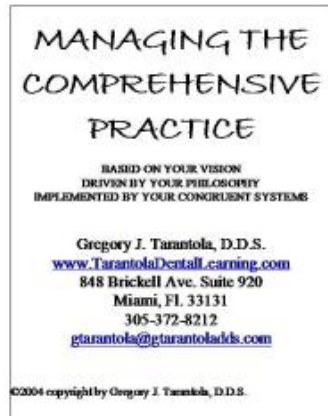
the treatment plan, sequence and fee. A sample report that might be used during a consultation appointment with the patient is included as well as a fee calculator

spreadsheet used to determine the fee. The spreadsheet is interactive so you can input your own pertinent information and see how it affects the fee.

- [Click here to see the JANUARY CLINICAL TIP](#)

NEW ADDITION TO THE MANAGEMENT WORKBOOK FOR 2005!

"Developing Your Vision"



We love doing the dentistry and making a difference in our patient's lives with what optimal care can offer, but most of us are not fond of the management aspects of our practice. As dentists we wear many hats from clinician, to entrepreneur, manager, communicator, motivator, financier etc. It is hard to keep it all straight.

The Management Workbook covers all the vital areas of a comprehensive care,

relationship based practice. You will be challenged to ponder your desires and expectations in each of these areas, involve your team and come up with a strategic plan and timetable for getting there.

Since none of this can happen in a meaningful, significant way without first having a clear vision of your own practice, the companion workbook "Developing Your Vision" has been included. It will guide you through clarifying and crystallizing your vision in a step-by-step fashion.

Make 2005 your year for scheduling some quiet, reflection time away from the dental chair and devoting that time to the "Important, Non-Urgent" (as Steven Covey says) aspects of your personal and professional life.

- [Click here to see THE MANAGEMENT AND VISION WORKBOOKS](#)

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FROM DECEMBER'S CLINICAL TIP ON EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSIS

What do you do for condylar inclination settings on the articulator?

For diagnosis and treatment planning, I feel it is important to customize the setting to the patient. This can be done several ways. One is to make lateral and protrusive checkbites. Another is to "dial in" the setting so that wear facets on the cast match up in various excursions. A third would be to get photographs of the mandible in various excursions and then set the condylar

inclination so the excursions of the articulated casts look similar to these photos.

I seem to have a difficult time getting the excursions smooth throughout the functional and parafunctional range. Any other tips?

I have found that it is a combination of three factors: One, a level lower incisal plane; two, correct upper central incisor length esthetically and phonetically; and three, correct upper cuspid length. By "manipulating" these three factors, you can usually come up with the magic combination esthetically and functionally. Also, don't forget to round and polish sharp line angles such as the lingual- incisals of the lowers.

Creating this diagnostic blueprint seems like a pretty involved process. Do you do this yourself or do you have a technician do it?

I have typically done the diagnostic blueprint myself. The insight gained by designing the form and function is invaluable. You will be much more confident when counseling your patient with regard to the treatment plan. The actual treatment, in particular the provisionals, comes together more predictably because the details are all very familiar. I feel it is time well invested.

What is the material you use for the blueprint?

I find flowable composite to be ideal for the blueprint. It adheres nicely to the cast, you don't need a bonding agent. It works well at adding to small areas such as incisal edge additions. For large areas such as pontics, regular composite works great or also something like Triad or Revotek. It can be shaped nicely before curing. The composite is stable and putty indices and stents can be made directly on this blueprint without breakage. It eliminates having to duplicate the blueprint.

What articulator system do you use?

There are many excellent systems on the market and I feel it boils down to personal preference. At a minimum, it should accept a facebow transfer and have the feature of customizing condylar inclination. I also feel a semi-adjustable system is all that is needed. As a mentor of mine has said so many times, "It is more important to have a fully adjustable mind!"

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"TIE" IT ALL TOGETHER

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