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March 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:

"Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts."

Arnold Bennett, 1867-1931, British Novelist

Thought For The Month

SO YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR PRACTICE?

We have a responsibility as dental professionals to be continual students. Keeping current with the ever expanding knowledge base requires continuing education, reading journals, being active in study clubs, etc.



But it goes far beyond this. Dr. Pankey saw the gap between "Knowing Your Work" and "Applying Your Knowledge" and challenged us to decrease the errors of "omission" (not doing what we should) and "comission" (doing what we should not).

This inspirational article my Michael Angier gives us a lot to ponder.

- [Go to the article.](#)

SELF-STUDY LEARNING CDs

Multimedia...interactive...interesting...effective

COMPREHENSIVE, RELATIONSHIP-BASED DENTISTRY



COMFORT, FUNCTION, HEALTH AND ESTHETICS
WITH STABILITY AND LONGEVITY
OF THE ENTIRE MASTICATORY SYSTEM

Look for Dr. Tarantola's article in the March issue of Dentaltown: "Defining Our Role As Dentists"

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 way to learn and implement masticatory system principles and to connect with the patient so they become an appreciative partner with us.

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

We all learn in different ways. These modules are very visual and not a lot of text to read. If you are already in a course of study, you need these CDs to complement your learning.

For the month of March, we will include the "Management Workbook" and "Vision Workbook" with the purchase of the Complete Set or Case Study Guide.

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

MARCH CLINICAL TIP



Sure I do complete evaluations...whenever the patient needs significant dentistry...

...or if they are having a problem. I hear this statement quite often. And

that's great, we should be doing complete exams to make a diagnosis, pinpoint the problem and plan the correct treatment. But what about our "healthy" patients. The evaluation often gets shortcut to 5 minutes at the end of a hygiene appointment.

As you read this month's clinical and hear this patient's story, I am sure you will recognize this patient. I am sure he/she is in your practice right now. Good teeth, no (or just a few small) restorations, no complaints of TMJ or muscles issues. Why take the time for a complete evaluation with photos and articulated casts?

Read on to see why...

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

BRAND NEW-"THE CASE STUDY TREATMENT PLANNING GUIDE"

The practical, everyday application of masticatory system dentistry



A collection of over 30 fully documented cases. History; exam; photos; casts; radiographs; diagnosis; the diagnostic blueprint to include an outline of all 10 decisions to make when blueprinting; treatment plan; treatment sequence; provisionals; the definitive case. A wide variety of cases are included.

When you have a perplexing case, you most likely will find a similar case in this collection to help you in your decision making. It shows with real life, practical cases, the application of the principles of the comprehensive approach.

There is also a new tutorial included that covers the keys to restorative success: Planning-Execution- Communication. You will find clinical tips throughout that will enhance your cause-effect understanding and how to deal with it at the planning stages.

As a bonus, the pertinent occlusal scientific literature of 2004 is summarized. 31 references and abstracts included for your review. Yearly updates including new cases and current literature will be offered .

As Steven Covey says in his book The Eight Habit, the road from effectiveness to significance is paved with this challenge, "Learn, Do, Teach". In other words, you not only have to LEARN it, you must DO it, that is put that knowledge into action. Then, to REALLY learn, you need to tell or teach someone else. By doing this step, you learn the material even better as you consolidate and clarify your thoughts in a way that you can convey it understandably to someone else.

This Case Study CD has a special challenge to help you implement "Learn, Do, Teach" and move from effectiveness to significance. Those who accept and complete the challenge will have their own case study published in a new, upcoming section of Tarantola Dental Learning - "Case Studies From Our Readers".

For the month of March, we will include the "Management Workbook" and "Vision Workbook" with the purchase of the Complete Set or Case Study

Guide.

- [Click here to see THE CASE STUDY TREATMENT PLANNING GUIDE](#)

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FROM FEBRUARY'S CLINICAL TIP

You closed the vertical dimension of occlusion. Isn't this bad for the TMJs?

The vertical dimension of occlusion was closed slightly to gain beneficial cuspid coupling. It was done in the CR (or in her case ACP) arc of closure. So the condyle just rotates ever so slightly around its medial pole brace and axis. It's position stays the same so there is no deleterious effect.

What effect does this closing of the VDO have on the muscles?

Remember the anatomic position of the muscles. It is posterior to the teeth and right in front of the TMJs. That is, the muscles are close to the arc of rotation so a slight change in VDO has minimal effect on the muscles. Closing 2 mm at the incisors relates to a fraction of a millimeter at the muscles. So there is no deleterious effect.

You were fortunate that the equilibration on the left did not perforate the crowns. What if it did?

The trial equilibration/blueprint is an accurate prediction of the actual treatment so ALWAYS do that first. And deal with the perforation in the most appropriate way. Repair with composite as a interim measure. Or make provisionals. But MOST IMPORTANTLY, talk to your patient about these possibilities ahead of time. So there are no surprises you may need to make 'excuses' for.

When you make these significant changes, how stable do you expect it to be?

I am continually amazed at how stable a physiologic occlusion is over time. But base the prognosis on your diagnosis. If the TMJs have had structural changes (adapted centric posture (Dawson 1995)) you may expect some change. But you know it ahead of time and so does the patient. Make diagnoses...not EXCUSES!!!

PLEASE TAKE THIS 5 MINUTE SURVEY

It has been one year since launching Tarantola Dental Learning. If you would please take less than 5 minutes of your time to complete this survey, it would be very appreciated. Our goal is to make the information more useful and beneficial for the dental profession.

The response to the survey was wonderful. Thank you all for you input, comments and suggestions. For those that did not take the survey but would like to, please feel free to respond.

- [CLICK HERE FOR THE](#)

SURVEY

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