



September  
2006  
Newsletter

## from Gregory Tarantola DDS

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## Greetings!

Tarantola Dental Learning is dedicated to helping dentists and their dental team, 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 quotes:

"You can't depend on your eyes if your imagination is out of focus. "

- Mark Twain, 1835-1910, American Writer and Humorist

"Nothing strengthens the judgment and quickens the conscience like individual responsibility. "

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902, American Social Reformer and Women's Suffrage Leader

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## Thought For The Month - Articles For You And Your Team To Discuss

Past "Thoughts For The Month" Are Now Conveniently Archived For Easy Review



### HOW ESTHETICS FITS IN OUR WORLD TODAY

It's enough to make your head hurt, this very conscious, contemporary, intellectual interpretation of Keats' "Beauty is life, life, Beauty."

On the other hand, social scientist and author (The Future and Its Enemies, 1998) Postrel brings together some very compelling arguments, insights, and examples about the value of aesthetics today. Nothing is quantified; instead, she points to qualitative examples like the GE Design Center in Selkirk, New York, devoted exclusively to the creation of new plastic forms. To Starbucks and the iMac, each a symbol of looks that sell--at a higher price. And to the 1,500-odd different drawer pulls available at the Great Indoors.

Aesthetics is how we make the world around us special, a feature recognized as early as 1927, when adman Ernest Elmo Calkins opined about "Beauty the New Business Tool" in the Atlantic. It enhances communications (cf. PowerPoint) and identities (Hillary Clinton's hair). Ask any Afghan woman who risked prison to style her hair and paint her face; aesthetics is at one with life.

As you contemplate the thoughts on esthetics that the author discusses, reflect on the implications it may have on the "esthetic revolution" we are currently experiencing in dentistry.

- [Go to the article.](#)

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## **CUSTOM DENTIST WEB SITES**

**Get Your Practice On The Web With A Site That Reflects A Comprehensive, Relationship Based Approach**

Did you know that in a recent CNN study over 80% of those surveyed said they rely on the internet to find reliable healthcare information & providers?

Not having a quality website today can be a negative for you and your practice. Today's consumer, our dental patients, are savvy and want to be informed...and this study proves they go to the internet for that information.

There are many options available to get on the web but very few, if any, differentiate the practice and truly convey the differences and benefits a comprehensive, relationship based practice offers our patients...

...until now!

[www.CustomDentistWebSites.com](http://www.CustomDentistWebSites.com) can customize a website for you and your practice. It can help you and your team convey what you are all about, from the complete interactive exam, reflective case planning, collaborative sequencing to the quality dentistry you provide.

Take a look at how Custom Dentist Web Sites can help you, your practice and your team.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Custom Dentist Web Sites

**[SELF-STUDY CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES AVAILABLE - AGD PACE APPROVED FOR 28 HOURS CREDIT](#)**

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the courses and programs offered by Tarantola Dental Learning

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## **SEPTEMBER CLINICAL TIP**

**Past "Clinical Tips" Now Conveniently Archived For Easy Review**



**Communicating Possibilities and Understanding Expectations**

When a patient presents to us unhappy with their current dentistry, we first need to make sure we understand fully what they are unhappy with. This involves asking questions and active listening.

As anxious as we may be to step in and offer recommendations, we need to fall back first on the fundamentals of a complete masticatory system exam which includes photos, radiographs and articulated diagnostic casts. In reflecting on a diagnosis, do you see a physical basis for their observations, in other words, do you see a cause/effect relationship?

Once you have that basis, can changes in form and function be made, that you feel fit within the physiologic dimensions of the masticatory system and will fulfill their expectations? In other words, the diagnostic blueprint must be created.

Whenever the treatment plan to do this is going to require a significant amount of dentistry, a reversible way to "preview" the changes intraorally and for the patient to "live with" these changes for a while would give both us and the patient peace of mind that tackling this project will meet expectations.

This month's clinical tip shows a way quick and simple, yet effective, way to preview these changes ahead of time.

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

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## ASK THE TECHNICIAN

Enhancing the dentist-technician relationship

### Comparison of Polishing vs. Autoglazing of Porcelain

For porcelain surfaces to be as non-abrasive as possible, they should be smooth, dense and highly polished. During laboratory fabrication, this is typically accomplished with an oven, auto-glazing procedure.

In the final quality control steps, some additional adjusting may be needed in perfecting the occlusion. Intra-oral adjustments either at time of placement or at follow-ups are often necessary.



Should these adjusted surfaces be auto-glazed again? What effect does this additional firing history have on the integrity of the porcelain? Is this auto-glazing the best technique for achieving a smooth surface? Or is polishing with an instrument polishing system as effective? or more effective?

Read this month's article from the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry summarizing a study comparing three polishing systems with auto-glazing.

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## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED FROM PAST ISSUES

### Comment from a reader:

*Great article. I am an orthodontist who routinely mounts all of his cases. Unfortunately, most of my*

colleagues do not see the need to go to the extra effort. Your article is a great example of why cases should be mounted on an articulator. Orthodontic treatment is comparable to a full mouth rehabilitation and should, in my opinion, be treated in a similar fashion. I can't imagine completing a full mouth rehab with hand held models.

Paul White, DDS

**Dr. Emil Verban sent this comment regarding the implant case that was profiled for several months. I wanted to pass this information along to our readers.**

A common problem related to the surgical placement of dental implants is the difficulty clearly seeing the depth markings on the drills. A detachable stop which controls penetration of the drill into the bone will improve osteotomy and greatly increase safety. This is extremely important under the maxillary sinus and over the mandibular canal.

With the use of a drill stop the surgeon is not required to keep their eyes on the depth markings and can fully focus on the axial dimension. It is extremely difficult if not impossible to focus on two dimensions simultaneously. The drill stop restricts creating an osteotomy deeper than a predetermined depth, allowing precise depth control and peace of mind. The depth stop is fabricated of surgical stainless steel, autoclavable and can be used indefinitely.

See Dr. Verban's website at [www.drillstops.com](http://www.drillstops.com)

**What would you do if the very patient in last month's tip presented but had no TMJ or muscle signs or symptoms and was not in need of any restorative dentistry?**

It would always begin with a complete masticatory system exam; that is, an evaluation of the current status of the TMJs, muscles, dentition, periodontium and occlusion. In other words, a system-based exam, not just a symptom-based exam. This evaluation would include radiographs, photographs and articulated diagnostic casts. A baseline of the current status of all the components of the masticatory system is now established for future comparisons. If no signs or symptoms of breakdown are observed or if they are very subtle and possibly do not warrant treatment at this point in time, at least a baseline is set and if future changes are observed when compared to the baseline, a rationale for treatment may then be made.

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