



Patient NEWSLETTER

PATIENT *Newsletter*

Produced for
the patients of
Edward R. Kusek, D.D.S.

Winter 2010

DENTAL TEAM

Vicki Neve
Judith Pastrano
Jeanette Miranda
Cindy Dellman
Amanda Kusek
Tina Simunek
Kristi Meyer
April DeVille

GREETINGS!

What a winter! I can't even recall when we had a winter like this one. Regarding the weather, if there is a possibility we will not be able to make it in to the office, we will give you a call prior to your appointment. If you cannot keep an appointment due to the weather, please give us a call. The answering service will relay the message to us.

What's in store for the staff this spring? I have been invited to attend a World Implant Symposium in Barcelona, Spain, in March. I will be lecturing as well as attending the conference. Also in March, I will be lecturing for the World Clinical Institute in San Diego, where I will be speaking on the use of the laser's effect for the surgical placement of dental implants. In April, our practice will be sponsoring two seminars. One will be on the use of the laser to complete surgical applications; the other will focus on using soft-tissue laser techniques to stop gum disease. Finally, in April, the entire staff will be attending lectures at the Academy of Laser Dentistry's convention, at which I will also be lecturing.

It is hard to believe that we have been in this office for over 10 years. Many changes have occurred in dentistry in that time, and with foresight in planning the office, we have been able to successfully handle those changes. It is time, however, to update the look and refresh the appearance of the office. We will be undergoing some remodeling during the months of March and April, so we ask your pardon in advance for any inconvenience. When it is finished, our office will have a bright new look!

My family has had a busy winter. Alex, the youngest (18), completed his first semester at the University of Nebraska. It was a successful semester for academics and with adjusting to college life (which included three different roommates!). He initiated into the fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, that I am a member of. The actives invited me to be a part of the initiation ceremony, which was special for me to have participated in. Amanda (22) has completed almost two years at my office as one of our hygienists. I have enjoyed watching her make a difference in patients' oral health. She works for her mother on the weekends and was invited to go to one of her market trips to Atlanta. My oldest child, Adam (25), continues to work at Monsanto doing corn research. It is pretty amazing how crops have changed to get better yields. He and Alex accompanied me to the Big 12 championship game. We had a great time even though the outcome of the game was not what we had hoped for. The new Dallas Cowboys stadium is a pretty crazy place to watch a football game, but we all agreed that we would much rather watch a game at the Lincoln, Neb., stadium. The atmosphere at a Husker home game is like no other place! Jody had a very successful year at her store, Forget Me Not. She really enjoys finding new items to bring to her store that will be the perfect gift for someone special in your life.

Thanks again for the referrals of family and friends.

Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!

Battling bad breath

Bad breath (halitosis) can have a number of causes. Sometimes it is caused by factors that can be controlled, such as improving less-than-stellar home-care habits. In other cases, it's a medical condition, such as diabetes, that is the origin of the problem.

Dry mouth, for instance, is a common cause of halitosis. Dry mouth is sometimes the result of taking certain medications or using tobacco, and many people experience what is called "morning breath," which is due to a decreased flow of saliva during sleep.

Of course, certain foods have long been associated with foul-smelling breath. Among these are onions and garlic, which can enter the bloodstream and the lungs to affect the breath.

Poor oral-care habits, including not brushing and flossing regularly and failing to clean the tongue properly, can also contribute to bad breath. Gum disease, which is often related to poor oral hygiene, is also a prime factor.

Finding the underlying issue is the first step in solving a bad-breath problem. As oral-care professionals, we are uniquely suited to making this discovery. Bad breath is often a sign of an infection or other problem, which can be diagnosed and corrected. If you're experiencing regular halitosis, we can help. Fresh breath may be just an appointment away.



DENTAL DISTRESS



A substantial drop in the stock market can cause a significant rise in the stress levels of those who have their retirement accounts invested there. Stress can have a negative effect on health. It is well-known for the contributions it makes to increased risk of stroke and heart disease. These are serious illnesses, without a doubt, but the effects of stress on dental health can be serious as well.

Stress has long been associated with clenching one's teeth. Clenching and grinding can damage teeth and contribute to ear pain. They can also lead to temporomandibular joint (TMJ) problems, which can cause headaches and jaw pain.

Unfortunately, the dental problems associated with economic stress don't end with those caused by clenching. Often, when faced with declining finances, people will forego or postpone necessary dental work. Skipping cleanings and checkups can be a mistake. Without good preventive care, periodontal disease and dental caries may flourish, resulting in the need for expensive restorative work and even tooth loss.

Routine dental maintenance is always a bargain. Regular cleanings, checkups, and fluoride treatments for children can mean keeping teeth healthy and greatly reducing the chances of needing root-canal treatment or procedures to save the teeth from gum disease later in life.

During difficult times, it's important to spend wisely, and it's good to remember that the smart money is always on preventive dental care.

A question of erosion

Acid erosion of a tooth's enamel—the protective outer covering—is becoming a distinct problem for today's dental professionals. Acids from foods such as citrus fruits and beverages, including colas and sports drinks, attack enamel shortly after the food or drink is ingested.

Unfortunately, brushing after each meal, as has been recommended to fight tooth decay, is not the best solution for defeating erosion. This is because acids soften tooth enamel when they come into contact with the tooth's outer shell. Brushing within an hour or less of eating or drinking something acidic could actually result in more erosion. Instead, rinse with plain water immediately after ingesting an acidic food or drink, and brush about an hour later.

Loss of tooth enamel is permanent. Damaged enamel cannot be repaired. Worse yet, teeth that have lost some of their protective covering are more susceptible to decay.

Therefore, it's wise to avoid or at least limit exposure to acidic foods, especially beverages. Fluoride, because it helps to harden enamel, can be used in conjunction with smart food choices to aid youngsters in avoiding erosion problems as they grow.



FOUR OUT OF FIVE

Gum disease is the dental plague of our times. It affects four out of every five of us, and most of those who have gum disease are blissfully unaware of its presence. Perhaps worse, they don't realize how often gum disease leads to tooth loss.

Gum, or periodontal, disease is a silent destroyer of the bone underlying the teeth. It is caused by plaque that remains on teeth after brushing. Flossing daily is one of the most important steps that can be taken to prevent gum disease, since flossing removes bacteria that congregate between teeth and lead to bone loss.

Certain people have an increased chance of developing periodontal disease. Sometimes the factors that contribute to this elevated risk are controllable. These include using tobacco in any form or neglecting oral hygiene. Factors that are more difficult to control include crowded teeth and diseases such as diabetes or AIDS. Certain medications, particularly those used to fight cancer or to control high blood pressure, can lead to dry mouth, which makes the oral environment more hospitable to plaque.



The first dental floss, manufactured in 1882, was made of silk.

When did you grow that sweet tooth?

If you find yourself craving sweets every day, it's likely that you were ingesting sugary foods during your earliest years. Evidence has shown that the foods a child is given when teeth are first erupting are likely to affect his or her dietary choices for years to come. High-sugar cereals and sweetened juices for toddlers may turn into a diet of soda and candy later on, according to some researchers.

Once a child begins to eat solid food, he or she begins to form dietary habits that could affect his or her dental health later in life. Teeth that are frequently exposed to sugar may also be subjected to an abundance of bacteria which excrete acids that lead to decay.

Baby teeth do not have the hardened enamel of second teeth and lack protection against acids, making them more susceptible to decay.

To avoid decay in first teeth and help a child develop good eating habits, be careful to give a child only plain water to drink, except at mealtimes. Never put a child down for a nap or at bedtime with a bottle containing anything but water. Limit juice consumption, and don't douse a pacifier with juice or other sweet substances.

Children who need to take medication often suffer more tooth decay, so if your child must take liquid medication, be sure he or she rinses with water and then brushes gently afterward.

Minimizing your child's exposure to sugar-laden foods early in life could mean a healthier mouth and diet for a lifetime. Choose what you feed your baby wisely. After all, his or her smile could depend on it.

Children who need to take medication often suffer more tooth decay, so if your child must take liquid medication, be sure he or she rinses with water and then brushes gently afterward.



© Copyright 2010. Newsletters, Ink. Corp. Printed in the U.S.A. www.NewslettersInk.com
The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for dental advice. For your specific situation, please consult our office.



SENSITIVE TO SLS?

Many people who suffer more than their fair share of mouth ulcers may discover that they could alleviate the problem by choosing a different toothpaste. A preliminary study conducted by two Norwegian researchers showed a 60 percent reduction in the incidence of ulcers in patients

who switched pastes. The problem, researchers suspect, may be related to a toothpaste ingredient called sodium lauryl sulfate, or SLS.

SLS is used in a number of toothpaste products as an emulsifier and to cause the paste to foam up when you brush with it. Unfortunately, some patients seem to be sensitive to the ingredient, and this may cause them to be more susceptible to mouth ulcers.

If you're plagued by mouth ulcers, choosing a toothpaste without SLS may make a difference. A number of brands do not contain the offending ingredient. Ask us to recommend one that may work better for you.

PUT SOME POWER IN YOUR SMILE!

Do you want a smile that lights up the room?

You can turn up your smile wattage with power whitening. This unique whitening process uses light-activated gels to produce dazzling results.

The whitening begins with a complete cleaning that removes any plaque or tartar clinging to teeth. That procedure is followed by an application of a whitening gel, which is cured under a laser or other high-intensity light. Each section of the mouth is treated, rinsed, and may be treated again for maximum effectiveness.

**About half of
us claim that a
person's smile is
the first thing
we notice
about him
or her.**

If you truly want whiter teeth, ask us about power whitening. Although each case is different, we have seen many smiles go from blah to bright. Why shouldn't yours be one of them?

Dr. Edward R. Kusek
4921 E. 26th St. #1
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Office Hours

Monday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.-Noon

**Appointment and Emergency
Phone: 605-371-3443
Web site: www.drkusek.com**

*Wishing you a new year
full of smiles!*

