Cannabis & Oral Health: What You Need to Know

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

According to the DEA, cannabis remains a Schedule I substance. As such, it is considered to have no accepted medical use and, thus, it is illegal to possess. Yet, the United States has seen a clear, broad-based trend toward state-level decriminalization of cannabis, with almost every state enacting legislation aimed at legalizing and/or decriminalizing cannabis for medical and/or recreational usage. Notwithstanding this rise in social and legal acceptance, public health concerns regarding the use of cannabis remain, especially among dental professionals, since the major routes of administration of cannabis involve the oral cavity. This program will introduce dental professionals to the most current information regarding the pharmacology of cannabis, including its various presentations, routes of administration and adverse effects. Special emphasis will be placed on the effects of cannabis use on oral health and dental treatment, as well as the proposed use of cannabis in dentistry for the management of patient anxiety and odontogenic pain.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Explain the basic concepts of neurophysiology and nerve conduction and the mechanism of action of local anesthetic agents
- Differentiate between the two major classes of local anesthetic agents with respect to their distribution, metabolism, and adverse effects
- Discuss the rationale for the use of vasoconstrictors in local anesthetic solutions and their potential effects in common oral system disease states
- Specify the various local anesthetic agent combinations most commonly used in dentistry and the rationale for their use in specific clinical situations
- Discuss the role of oral adverse effects, contraindications, and patient care considerations with the use of local anesthetics.

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The educational teaching methodology used in this course is live lecture presented in concert with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Both the live lecture and the PowerPoint presentation incorporate a variety of audio and visual cues to enhance audience participation, and audience participation will be encouraged and facilitated by group discussions as well as questions and answer periods provided for at the conclusion of each segment of the live lecture.”

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete the registration form to ensure prompt delivery.

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**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the history and various types of cannabis, as well as its current legal status and proposed uses in dentistry.
- Explain the intended role of non-opioid and opioid analgesics in the treatment of dental pain, as well as situations which may preclude their use.
- Describe strategies useful in developing a pain management plan that is individualized for a patient’s needs and underlying medical conditions.
- Understand appropriate prescribing practices to utilize in everyday clinical situations.

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