

Fall The Monthly Mouthful



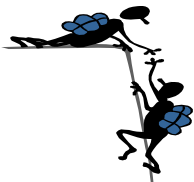
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THANKS AGAIN TO A GREAT GROUP OF FRIENDS WHO HAVE EXTENDED THEMSELVES AND RECOMMENDED OUR PRACTICE TO THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THANKS AND PLEASE KEEP IT UP. SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS NEED LOTS AND LOTS OF REMINDERS AND PUSHES TO CALL US THAT FIRST TIME.



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The Doctor's Corner

Last month I wrote about some of the research findings linked to periodontal disease: While some of what we know about this disease and its link to whole body health may be a little scary, there is also good news. On the reverse side of this newsletter you will see that the issue of periodontal disease is quite the hot research topic. Nevertheless, as we learn more about its causes, we make new inroads into solutions and preventive measures.

This latter factor of prevention has always been considered the "best medicine." After all, common sense alone dictates that most people would prefer never having to experience illness than to apply a cure once they have one.

In dentistry, prevention is predicated upon applying the basics. This includes brushing after meals, flossing daily, eating a diet low in refined carbohydrates, and assuring that you are getting the proper nutrients in your diet. If not, supplementation with vitamins and minerals should be considered.

One often-overlooked "basic" element of dental care, however, involves regular dental visits.

For most people, this means being examined twice a year for cavities, gum disease, bone loss and oral cancer.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that each of the above conditions generally don't manifest symptoms until it is too late.

In today's difficult economic climate I see people trying to economize on their dental

health — sometimes with unfortunate, and irreversible results.

On the more positive side, there are many things you can do to protect yourself from trouble.

For those of you on Facebook I would really like to hear from you about what dental topics and questions you would like to hear about.

If you haven't done so already, we would love it if you could take a moment to "Like" us on Facebook (you'll find us as Toothwiz Dental).

Sincerely,

Dr. Walicki



Implant Healing Times May be Cut.

The technology used to replace lost teeth with titanium dental implants could be improved. By studying the surface structure of dental implants not only at micro level but also at nano level, researchers at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, have come up with a method that could shorten the healing time for patients.

"Increasing the active surface at nano level and changing the conductivity of the implant allows us to affect the body's own biomechanics and speed up the healing of the implant," says Johanna Löberg at the University of Gothenburg's Department of Chemistry. "This would reduce the discomfort for patients and makes for a better quality of life during the healing process."

Dental implants have been used to replace lost teeth for more than 40 years now..

Sources: University of Gothenburg, AlphaGalileo Foundation.

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Sound Bites?

The SoundBite Hearing Aid system has received its second clearance by the USA Food and Drug Administration. The device provides a unique and innovative alternative for the hearing impaired. The new FDA clearance allows use of the SoundBite system for patients with conductive hearing loss.

SoundBite is a non-surgical solution for the hearing impaired. It is a cost effective alternative to existing surgical procedures that held similar results. The device is a removable prosthetic that uses bone conduction through your teeth to amplify and transmit sound clearly to your inner ear.

No modifications to your teeth are needed to use the SoundBite system. The process is comprised of a custom made ITM (in the mouth) hearing device that is fitted on the patient's upper left or right back teeth and a microphone device that is worn behind the ear.

The system will be available through audiologist and physicians sometime this fall.

How Cavity-Causing Microbes Invade The Heart

ScienceDaily (June 28, 2011) — Scientists have discovered the tool that bacteria normally found in our mouths use to invade heart tissue, causing a dangerous and sometimes lethal infection of the heart known as endocarditis. The work raises the possibility of creating a screening tool -- perhaps a swab of the cheek, or a spit test -- to gauge a dental patient's vulnerability to the condition.

The identification of the protein that allows *Streptococcus mutans* to gain a foothold in heart tissue is reported in the June issue of *Infection and Immunity* by microbiologists at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

S. mutans is a bacterium best known for causing cavities. The bacteria reside in dental plaque -- an architecturally sophisticated goo composed of an elaborate molecular matrix created by *S. mutans* that allows the bacteria to inhabit and thrive in our oral cavity. There, they

churn out acid that erodes our teeth.

"When I first learned that *S. mutans* sometimes can live in the heart, I asked myself: Why in the world are these bacteria, which normally live in the mouth, in the heart? I was intrigued. And I began investigating how they get there and survive there," said Jacqueline Abranches, Ph.D., a microbiologist and the corresponding author of the study.

Abranches and her team at the University's Center for Oral Biology discovered that a collagen-binding protein known as CNM gives *S. mutans* its ability to invade heart tissue. In laboratory experiments, scientists found that strains with CNM are able to invade heart cells, and strains without CNM are not.

Until more research is done and a screening or preventive tool is in place, Abranches says the usual advice for good oral health still stands for everyone.

The Monthly Mouthful Offer



Between now and September 30, 2011 patients with the following needs can benefit from this great offer:

- For prepaid treatment between \$1,000—\$1,999 take 5% off.
- For prepaid treatment between \$2,000—\$2,999 take 6% off.
- For prepaid treatment over \$3,000 take 7% off.

Offer only valid when you present this coupon. *

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Labor Day



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