

NEW HYGIENIST AND WEBSITE DESIGN

We are very excited to have Beth Bellesheim join our dental team as our full time hygienist. Beth has over 5 years of experience and received not a 2 year but a 4 year Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Rhode Island.

She has also completed graduate degree course work for an MBA at Western Connecticut State University and over 74 continuing education hours in the dental health field. We are very happy to have a dental team member with her experience and education.

Our Website has also changed. The original Website was designed in 1996 and has changed little. As of September 1, the new website went on line. There are many more

educational pictures on many common dental procedures and problems. Also, there is a lot of information about technology and instruments used to treat dental conditions. Some of the main features are the smile book with before and after shots, Some of our patient information forms in PDF format, an extensive FAQ section and the ability to send your payment electronically.

Please look over the site at: www.dentistdds.com Tell me what you think or what you would like to see. Currently I am fine tuning the site and would like to see how it can best serve you.

With the current full time staff of Veronica McMorrow, Maryann Weed and Beth



Above is a sample picture from our new website Www.Dentistdds.com

Bellesheim we want to provide you the best care available and ensure that your visit is as comfortable and pleasant as possible. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| New Hygienist | 1 |
| Insurance | 1 |
| Cavity Update | 2 |
| Oral Piercing | 2 |
| Cosmetic Tax | 2 |
| Teen Survey | 2 |
| Infertility and Oral Health | 2 |

Special points of interest:

- Welcome Beth to the Dental Practice
- Send Your payments via the new website
- Insurance Benefits expire December 31st, use the money you are allowed
- Oral Piercing
- Why conceiving and oral health are so important

YOUR INSURANCE BENEFITS

The end of the year is approaching and many of you will be thinking of Thanksgiving and the end of the year holidays and all the rush and frenzy associated with this time. Don't forget your dental insurance. You may be sitting on \$1500 of

benefits that the insurance company hopes that you never spend (and it does not roll over) that you have paid for. You may want to consult with Dr. Dantini or Maryann and see if using some of those benefits makes sense for you before

they disappear come January 1 2005. Maryann can be reached at 322-5397.

CAVITY UPDATE

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force revealed recently that dental cavities affect as many as 19 percent of children ages 2 to 5 and more than 50 percent of those age 5 to 9.

The Task Force said it encourages primary care physicians who practice in areas that are fluoride-deficient to prescribe oral fluoride supplements to preschool children six months and older. The findings are from the May 2004 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

TEEN SURVEY

According to a Teen Health and Nutrition Survey conducted by Buzzback Market Research, teens in the United States are not convinced that flossing and using mouthwash are just as important as brushing in a well-balanced oral hygiene program.

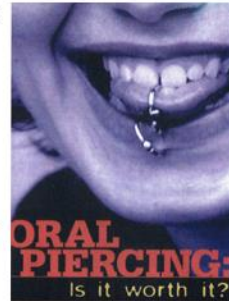
The survey, which was conducted on more than 500 teenagers, said that teenage girls are more concerned with oral hygiene than

The Task Force is an independent panel of experts sponsored by the Agency for

ORAL PIERCING

Healthcare Research and Quality, within the Department of Health and Human Services.

(HealthDayNews) -- Piercing may be a



popular form of body art and self-expression, but oral piercings can be dangerous, the American Dental Association says.

Common symptoms after oral piercing include pain, swelling, infection and increased salivary flow. Potential complications include damage to teeth, interference with speech, and scarring.

Oral piercing can also cause prolonged bleeding of the tongue, airway obstruction from pronounced swelling, or accidental swallowing of jewelry.

NEW JERSEY COSMETIC TAX

Cosmetic medical procedures just got more expensive—for the practitioners and patients in New Jersey. Beginning August 31st all providers of cosmetic medical procedures were required to collect sales tax on procedures such as tooth whitening, cosmetic dentistry, surgery, etc.

“Teenage girls are more concerned with oral hygiene than teenage boys”

INFERTILITY AND ORAL HEALTH

According to the June issue of the journal of Periodontology, researchers have determined that women undergoing ovulation induction for infertility treatment for more than three menstrual cycles experience higher gingival inflammation, bleeding and gingival crevicular fluid.

In the study, the gingival inflammation levels of women undergoing infertility



treatment and ovulation induction were investigated and compared with women not undergoing the procedures. The study found that despite similar plaque levels, women who were receiving the medications for more than three menstrual cycles had higher levels of gingival inflammation, bleeding and GCF. GCF is a fluid that contains enzymes and tissue breakdown prod-

ucts that have been examined as potential markets for the progression of periodontitis.

Additional studies have shown that the presence of infection is associated with unsuccessful embryo development and implantation failure in invitro fertilization patients.