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DIPLOMATES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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Nasal spray is safe, effective anesthetic

For people who are pain- or needle-phobic, dental work is often avoided because the primary method for numbing the mouth involves a shot, but a new inhalable anesthetic may offer new hope to those avoiding the dentist. The U.S. FDA has approved Kovanaze, a nasal spray anesthetic for use in restorative dental work after it was shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials. The drug, developed by the company St. Renatus, was inspired by a nasal spray containing the anesthetic tetracaine when the company's co-founder, Mark Kollar, had surgery

for a deviated nasal septum.

Kollar, a dentist, noticed his teeth went numb, in addition to his face, after receiving the inhalable anesthetic and started working on a version that might be useful for his own patients.

Kovanaze, which is a combination of tetracaine and the nasal decongestant oxymetazoline, was approved by the FDA for use with patients over 88 pounds, though the company plans to investigate its use with children, as well as for other procedures.

"It would certainly make for a more stress-free dental

office visit for children as well as adults if we could replace some of these anesthetic injections with a simple spray," Dr. Elliot Hersh, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's dental school and collaborator on the recent phase 3 clinical trial for Kovanaze, said in a press release. "It may also keep some children out of the operating room, which would be a major cost sav-

ings to the child's family." For the phase 3 trial, the results of which are published in the Journal of the American Dental Association, researchers recruited 150 participants to receive either Kovanaze or placebo before restorative dental work. Each participant received two 0.2-millimeter sprays four minutes apart, and a third if

continued on reverse

Dental Fun Fact

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



The Friday after Thanksgiving is National Flossing Day

News You Can Use

Infection control issue in California.

According to news reports, seven children have been hospitalized for oral cellulitis after visiting a dental clinic in Southern California. The reports say that the California Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Dental Board of California are working with the healthcare agency to investigate the infections.

There are a number of infection control resources on the ADA.org including the recently reformatted CDC Infection Prevention Recommendations for Dentistry.

they were not numb enough. If the sprays were not enough, patients could also receive an rescue shot of anesthetic. Participants were monitored for adverse reactions to the drug, given smell

tests and had vital signs taken during the 2-hour study period and a day later in a follow-up visit. More than 88 percent of patients receiving Kovanaze found it effective, a rate researchers say is com-

parable to commonly used injectable numbing agents, with the most common side effects being a runny nose and nasal congestion. The company is likely to conduct trials and seek approval

for the drug to be used with root canals and oral tissue biopsies, among other more intensive dental procedures, as well as whether it is safe with children, Hersh said.
From UPI 8/26/2016

Dr. Brian Simpson
announces the twenty eighth meeting of the
NANUET IMPLANT STUDY GROUP

speaker: Brian Bovino, DMD
Director of the Oral Surgery Residency Program
St Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital

topic: "Hospital Based Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Dinner: 6:30 Presentation: 7:00 — 9:00 pm

Hudson House 134 Main Street Nyack, NY

2 CE credits awarded by the Ninth District Dental Association
Cost: \$50.00

To register, contact call: 845-623-3497
or email office@drbriansimpson.com

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia." -Charles M. Schulz