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FDA Public Health Notification: Denture Cleansers

In February of this year, the FDA posted an alert to healthcare providers warning of reports of allergic reactions in users of dental cleaners. They received more than 73 reports of adverse events related to the use of denture cleansers, both in the proper and improper use of the product. The reports also show that the allergic reactions occur soon after beginning use of the product as well as after years of use.

The ingredient that is responsible for the reactions is persulfate, which is a known allergen. Persulfates are used in most denture cleansers to clean and bleach the dentures. The most serious adverse events (abdominal pain, vomiting, seizures, hypotension, and difficulty breathing) have resulted from the misuse of the products (e.g., gargling or swallowing the product).

While many dental offices do not use denture cleansers regularly, some offices, after performing surgery and placing a denture, may provide patients with a kit of useful items including a

denture cleanser.

The FDA has made several recommendations:

- ◆ Be aware that patients who wear dentures may present with symptoms of an allergic reaction, and the denture cleanser may be the source of the reaction.
- ◆ Educate your patients and their caregivers about the symptoms of an allergic reaction to persulfates in the denture cleanser.

These symptoms can

include irritation, tissue damage, gum tenderness, rash, urticaria, respiratory conditions, and hypotension.

- ◆ Educate your patients and their caregivers about the proper use of denture cleansers. Even though the product labeling may mention mouthwash as an ingredient, the product should NEVER be ingested. Ingestion can result in esophageal ulcers, abdominal

continued on reverse

Dental Fun Fact

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

HIPPOCRATES AND ARISTOTLE WROTE ABOUT DENTISTRY, INCLUDING THE ERUPTION PATTERN OF TEETH, TREATING DECAYED TEETH AND GUM DISEASE, EXTRACTING TEETH WITH FORCEPS, AND USING WIRES TO STABILIZE LOOSE TEETH AND FRACTURED JAWS.

- ADA

News You Can Use

Patients may be asking about the risks associated with mercury fillings after the FDA settled a lawsuit with several consumer groups who are concerned about mercury.

Mercury vapor can be released during the removal and placement of fillings, as well as by chewing. Pregnant women and people with high levels of mercury who have cavities "should not avoid seeking dental care, but should discuss options with their health practitioner," says the FDA's updated website on dental amalgams. The FDA recommends against consumers having existing mercury fillings removed.

The American Dental Association said in a statement that the settlement "does not call for restrictions on the use of amalgam in any particular population group," and that the association "believes that dental amalgam remains a safe, affordable, and durable cavity filling choice for dental patients."

An FDA spokesman told Reuters that it expects to release a more specific rule about dental amalgams by July 2009.

From *Physician's First Watch* June 6, 2008

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pain, vomiting, burns, irritation, breathing problems, hypotension, seizures, gum tenderness, bleaching of tissue, and blood in the urine.

The FDA has recom-

mended that all manufacturers of denture cleansers modify their labeling to include warning information that the product contains persulfates, a known allergen, and to improve the directions for use on their labeling in order to

reduce misuse. They are also recommending that manufacturers consider appropriate alternatives to the use of persulfates, believing that these actions will minimize the risk of adverse reactions.

From *OMSNIC Monitor*, April 2008

For more info, visit www.fda.gov

Synergy Training Program

Dr. Brian Simpson reflects on the first Synergy Training Program.

Synergism: The joint action of agents, that when taken together, increase each other's effectiveness

On August 22nd, the first of five sessions of the Synergy Training Program began. The innovative Biomet 3i program I am sponsoring at Pasta Cucina features Dr. Bruce Ouelette from West Palm Beach, Florida. Dr. Ouelette is a certified 3i speaker and general dentist who is well experienced in implant dentistry.

Successful implant dentistry is the result of a team effort. Thus, the emphasis of the program is on a team approach, where each member of the implant team (surgeon, re-

storative dentist, and laboratory technician) coordinates his/her efforts with the other members. This restorative training program places the focus on diagnosis and treatment planning. Each dentist follows his/her own patient through the implant process during the course of the program. The comprehensive course offers training in all aspects of restorative implant dentistry for dentists and provides the tools and confidence to successfully incorporate implants into their practice.

Sessions two and three will be held on October 24th and 25th and include treatment planning and case preparations. Session four will be held on March 13, 2009 and will focus on restorative procedures. The final session will be on April 24, 2009 when the final case presentations will be

completed.

There has been a great deal of excitement among the participants as everyone enjoyed reviewing cases, selecting patients, and giving their own opinion on how to approach a case. It was a great educational experience and has enhanced the participant's ability to diagnose potential implant patients.

If you have any questions about our Synergy Training Program, please call me at the office at 845-623-3497 or email me at drbriansimpson@optonline.net.

Because of the tremendous initial success of this program, we plan to have other implant educational opportunities in the future.

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."
-Aristotle (384—322 BCE)