EXCELLENCE IN DENTAL ASSISTING

Academy of Chairside Assisting
Shannon Brinker Pace, CDA, CDD and her team of Dental Assisting Experts jointly teach the following lecture and/or hands-on workshop. This program is designed for the Dental Assistant perspectives and techniques to create success from “Our Side of the Chair”. Learning together to build congruence and collaboration that results in predictable success.
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

In this digital age, effective patient and lab communication is predicated on clinical photography. This hands-on rotation will provide dental assistants with the necessary skills to shoot basic photographs for quick co-diagnosis, as well as pre-treatment, treatment and post-treatment clinical angles required for documentation and lab communication purposes. Attendees will learn simplified camera settings appropriate for various photographs as well as placement of retractors and use of clinical mirrors. Uploading, basic image manipulation, file storage and tips for quick access and emailing will be demonstrated.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• What materials are needed to take proper photos, not just the camera

• Basics of positioning and framing of the subject

• Proper instruments & lighting for excellent intraoral shots

• Digital imaging for patient education and case acceptance

• Using digital images for enhanced laboratory communication
DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY

Radiographs are an important adjunct to providing oral health care for the total patient. Historically, radiographic images have been produced using film-based systems. However, in recent years, with the arrival of new technologies, many practitioners have begun to incorporate digital radiographic imaging into their practices. The purpose of this course is to provide a comprehensive overview of digital radiography in dentistry. Specific components addressed are technological features, diagnostic software, advantages and disadvantages, technique procedures, and legal implications.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Parallel techniques to open contacts
- Positioning of sensors and the patient for better radiographs
- How to read a radiograph
- Barriers and x-ray bibs to protect the patient
- Infection control issues
IMPRESSON TECHNIQUES

Making an accurate and detailed impression is the first and most important step in creating superior prosthetic restorations for your patients, but even the most experienced practitioner can encounter difficulties when making an impression.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• PVS vs Alginate

• Understanding what to look for in an impression

• Choosing the right impression tray

• Proper patient positioning techniques

• Answers to “Why did I get that pull, scrape, bubble, delamination and/or void?”
INFECTION CONTROL TECHNIQUES

This rotation will provide an overview of best practices for infection control in dentistry with an emphasis on how to adapt guidelines and recommendations into every day practice. Building on the basic principles of infection control, the participants are guided through the process of delivering safe care without compromising efficiency.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Understand the principles and processes of disinfection and sterilization

• Identify the steps to sharps safety

• Identify the personal protective attire and gear for dental personnel safety

• Identify the infection prevention strategies that dental staff should follow at all times
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Mastering digital photography: pre-operative, provisional stage, and post-operative

• Step-by-step procedural techniques in taking a facebow/bitestick, diagnostic study casts, video imaging, and laboratory Rx

• What constitutes a perfect master impression

• How exquisite provisional restorations serve as an anatomic (functional) and esthetic blueprint for the laboratory and lab communications
CHAIRSIDE CHARTING

A dental chart is used to measure the depth of gum pockets around the teeth. It is a way of noting abnormal clinical and radiographic findings as a permanent part of the patient’s dental record. Recording the condition of all teeth as well as soft and hard tissues is necessary for a number of reasons including the need to provide quality care. The charting of existing conditions provides basic information for an accurate comprehensive treatment plan. Communicating the patient’s history is also an important reason for using a dental chart as well as the chart being a legal document. In this rotation you will learn:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Understand the importance of and the reasons for properly documenting and maintaining patient records

• Differentiate between types of data that should be included or excluded from the complete record

• Avoid potential charting errors by learning to use objective and legible entries to properly document pertinent patient information

• Demonstrate how to properly revise an incorrect entry
CLINICAL CONSULTATIONS

As clinical procedures in aesthetic dentistry continue to expand and improve, the dental assistant’s role continues to evolve as well. As we connect with the patient and understand their desires, it allows them to become more open and honest with their expectations. Increasing case acceptance is easy when we know what to ask and say. This course takes the dental team through proper records gathering, treatment planning and case acceptance and how to include whitening and esthetic dental treatment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• How to properly schedule new patients and orchestrate the appointment to gather esthetic, occlusal, biologic and clinical information

• Ask proper questions to connect with the wants and needs of the dental patient

• Understand dental procedures and how to present their treatment plan and sequence the steps to not compromise the treatment, but compromise the time
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FABRICATING EXQUISITE ANTERIOR PROVISIONALS

This session will present a philosophy of esthetics centered on the concept of natural beauty created from research in the fields of both art and science. Esthetic success depends not only on the creation of a beautiful smile, but ensuring optimal function and health. Bringing together the concepts of form and function, we will look at how the concepts of smile design and anterior guidance come together to ensure patient comfort and predictability. Finally we will talk about how our provisionals create the blueprint for what works and allow an exact transfer of this information into porcelain.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand both indirect and direct provisional techniques
- Trim, finish and polish provisionals to create exquisite fit and aesthetics
- Choose cementation techniques for partial and full coverage anterior provisionals
FABRICATING EXQUISITE POSTERIOR PROVISIONALS

Multiple fabrication techniques will be presented including materials selection and custom staining. The workshop will cover provisional cementation techniques to reduce sensitivity and provide retention. Participants will fabricate a crown and bridge provisional.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand both indirect and direct provisional techniques
- Trim, finish and polish provisionals to create exquisite fit and aesthetics
- Choose cementation techniques for partial and full coverage posterior provisionals
WHITER, BRIGHTER, HEALTHIER TEETH

The course will cover practical techniques for in-office and take home whitening. Fulfilling the desire and demand to have a bright and white smile is the ultimate goal for every dental practice. A bright smile not only presents a healthy and beautiful impression, but also increases one’s interest in oral hygiene, allowing the patient to have more social self-confidence and self esteem. Before the patient can go through the whitening process, we must have a proper whitening consult to understand the patient and their desires.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• How to do a whitening consult and understand who is a candidate for each whitening procedure

• Understanding the differences of carbamide vs. hydrogen and what type of whitening the patient needs

• Giving proper home care instructions and tips to achieve their goal
BONDING & CEMENTATION

Bonding and cementation materials and techniques are constantly evolving. It is a challenge of every practice to differentiate between the products on the market, and know which to choose to ensure predictable results. This program will present the history and current science behind dentin adhesives, bonding systems and cementation. The lecture will compare total etch to self etch techniques and distinguish the risks and benefits of each. The presentation will detail a systematic approach to evaluating the different generations of dentin adhesives, and compare the clinical and research data of each. This lecture will clarify how to decrease post-operative sensitivity and increase the success of your adhesive dentistry.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Dentin adhesives, materials and application
• Bonding materials
• Cementation materials and technique
• Light and dual cure bonding technique
RUBBER DAM PLACEMENT MADE EASY

When asking Dental Assistants how many use a rubber dam in their practice, it is shocking to see the show of hands. Studies show that only 15% of dental offices use rubber dam for adhesive procedures. Excuses come up such as; it takes too long to place, we just use cotton rolls, retractors get the same results. With so many new and innovative dams in today’s market, dam placement takes minutes. Why take chances?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Choosing the right dam

• Increasing patient comfort by retracting lip, cheek, and tongue from the field of operation

• Increasing efficiency, productivity and reducing the time required for treatment
THE ART OF HEMOSTATICS

Unparalled tissue management starts with rapid profound hemostasis. An ideal impression for successful crown and bridge must accurately capture all the preparation margins. How to place a single, double cord technique is the best way to get detailed impressions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Choosing the correct cord and packing instruments
- What hemostasis materials to use
- When to use ferric sulfate or aluminum chloride
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To set up or schedule a customized program for your organization, contact Shannon at the ACA.