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Because it is atypical for an entire dental office to receive training in ACLS, the responsibility of preparing the staff for such emergencies falls upon the dentist.

"The dentist has to take the information that they gain from our courses and take it back to train his or her team to support them. We train the dentist on how to train his or her staff and support team," says Bovia.

When considering which ACLS course to take, many dentists opt to take the cheapest class in the most convenient location, which on the surface may seem quite reasonable.

However it is those classes, designed for emergency staff, that fail to address the practical needs of the dental professional. When weighing the options, consider the skills taught and their relevance to the profession of dentistry. Can they be applied within the walls of your dental practice?

Do they involve standard equipment in your office? Would you know what to do if you were not able to administer medication through an IV?

Your patient's life may depend on it.

http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3044352