Oral Health America’s Gala & Benefit celebrates 60th and 25th anniversaries

Tickets on sale for Feb. 25 event in Chicago, with chance to win an Audi A3 Cabriolet

Tickets and sponsorships are available for Oral Health America’s 25th Annual Gala & Benefit, which is taking place Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Hilton Chicago.

In addition to being a major fundraiser for OHA’s programs that connect communities with resources to drive access to oral health care, the Gala & Benefit serves as a premier networking event for the dental industry. The gala averages almost 1,000 attendees each year, representing hundreds of companies, dentists and industry professionals.

‘Smiles Under Silver Stars’

The year’s theme, ‘Smiles Under Silver Stars,’ celebrates the 25th anniversary of the gala and the 60th anniversary of OHA, which started in 1955 as the American Foundation for Dental Education to expand the pool of qualified dental educators. OHA’s history will be celebrated at a reception before the gala and with a presentation during the event.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour, followed by a culinary feast that organizers describe as being fit for the celebration. The evening also features live music and live and silent auctions. The 2015 gala, sponsored by Aspen Dental, is an opportunity to win a 2015 Audi A3 Cabriolet. Raffle tickets can be purchased now for $100 each, with winners not needing to be present to win.

The keynote speaker of the gala is Kavo Kerr Group, technology sponsors are Ivoclar Vivadent and Patterson Dental, diamond sponsors are Colgate Palmolive, Dentatus Foundation, DENTSPLY International, Henry Schein, Philips Sonicare, Sirona and Septodont, platinum sponsors are Darby Dental, Dentsply and Midmark, and gold sponsors are Belmont Publications, Bisco, Burkhart, DentalPlex, Unilever and Planmeca.

To purchase tickets, raffle tickets, sponsorships or for additional information, you can visit www.oralhealthamerica.org/participate/gala, or send an email to Brad McLaughlin at brad.mclaughlin@oralhealthamerica.org, or call him at (312) 836-9900.

(Source: Oral Health America)

Commentary

Reflecting on oral-health’s good old iodine days

By Patricia Walsh, RDH, Hygiene Tribune Editor in Chief

While anxiously waiting for the “Downton Abbey” television series to start up again, I got my English history fix by reading the history of Wentworth Castle. The book covered the trials and tribulations of an aristocratic family in a home three times the size of Buckingham Palace. I was taken by surprise when the author mentioned the cause of death of a high-ranking nobleman as “quinsy throat.”

In modern times, with the arrival of antibiotics, you wouldn’t hear of this—at least not in a developed nation. The more I thought about it, I don’t think I had heard the term “quinsy sore throat” for a very long time. Around here, if your throat is starting to close off, you’ve probably gotten yourself to an emergency room pronto. It’s an abscess in the peritonsillar area that often needs drainage.

While tonsillitis is more common in children, both kids and adults are susceptible to quinsy. One can only assume that if the breathing restrictions don’t kill you, the resulting septicaemia might later. A quinsy sore throat can infect both the blood supply and individual organs.

I can recall having my tonsils painted with iodine by the school nurse when I was starting to “come down with some thing.” A tall canister of extra long cotton swabs were one of the staples of her office. I can’t say whether there’s any scientific proof that tonsil painting reduced cases of severe tonsillitis. But I do know that some homeopathic remedies call for gargling with a watered down Betadine solution even today. I’ve also heard that eating three or four marshmallows helps to soothe a sore throat. Apparently it has something to do with the gelatin. I suppose if you’re not eating at all, any calorie intake will do, so it might as well be fun.

Washington’s epiglottitis

George Washington’s physician mentions his quinsy sore throat prior to his death at age 63. He was thought to have suffered from a quinsy sore throat that quickly turned into epiglottitis—most likely his cause of death. The swelling of his epiglottis cut off his air supply. He also suffered from malaria, TB and smallpox during his lifetime. How sad that it may have been a very bad sore throat that got him in the end.

The bloodletting technique that was used at the time probably hindered his recovery as well. When I was a dental hygiene student, we were occasionally brought to a local city clinic to do checkups on grammar school children. These children were the poorest of the poor and were seen on old WWII wooden field chairs. There was no money in the budget for fancy things like disclosing tablets.” Instead, we used iodine on long cotton swabs to paint the teeth and disclose the plaque. Our instructor kept the large bottle of iodine. The iodine that a physician uses is water-based as opposed to the alcohol-based type available for home use. We used eye droppers to fill up our little green-glass dappen dishes for each patient. I would think the taste alone would put children off dentistry for some time to come. We rinsed their mouths with a rubber ball syringe, and they expectorated into a kidney basin.

Considering the number of patients I currently see with known iodine allergies, it’s amazing we never heard of any children having a reaction. Then again, people are now more “allergy aware” then they once were.

There is probably an equal number of children with red-dye allergies who would have done no better with the modern disclosing tablets.

In spite of iodine’s unpleasant taste, I have been known to recommend sublingual irrigation with a Betadine solution (brand name for povidone-iodine). The key to this is the dosage. I tell the patient that if it were to flow through a dollar bill, they’d be drinking too much. There is a huge temptation to use too much because most drug stores sell only very large bottles. But between the bad taste and the potential for staining, it’s easy to see why less is more. Iodine kills the gram negative bacteria that live in the darker recesses of a deep perio pocket.

There is another clinical application for iodine in dentistry. An iodine staining test used to assist in discerning attached gingiva as mentioned in “Periodontics Revisited” by Shalu Batheja, MD. The physician can “paint the gingiva and oral mucosa with Lugol’s solution (iodine, water and potassium iodide). The anesthetist takes on a brown color owing to its glycogen content while the glycyogen-free attached gingiva remains unstained. Measure the total width at the unstained gingiva and subtract the sulcus/pocket depth from it to determine the width of the attached gingiva.”

In the Chernobyl disaster, some Lugols solution was used as an emergency source of iodide to block radiation iodine uptake, simply because it was widely available as a drinking water decontaminant, and pure potassium iodide without iodine (the preferred agent) was not available.

Mama don’t take my Mecurochrome away

Mecurochrome and merthiolate were also very popular in my childhood. We proudly wore our pink tinctures over scraped knees like playground battle scars. When it was determined that mercury was detrimental to one’s overall health, Mecurochrome was banned from general use. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration put very strict limitations on the sale of Mecurochrome in 1998 and

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stated that it was no longer considered to be a GRAS (generally recognized as safe) over-the-counter product. Merthiolate was another commonly found antiseptic and antifungal agent that was banned because of its mercury content.

Iodine was determined by the U.S. Justice Department to have a roll in the production of methamphetamine and is now a restricted purchase. Iodine is often used as a test for starch conversion in the mash.

Iodine getting harder to find

The old-time iodine bottle with the skull and crossbones sitting in the medicine cabinet has come and gone. In this new age of communication and entertainment, I wonder if a child would even be put off by the sight of a poison label. Children are exposed to cartoon pirates at such an early age. In the mid-19th century, cobalt blue bottles or raised glass lettering were used to help in the identification of poison.

While there is no federal mandate for quantity sales — i.e., more than $100 worth. When I asked my local pharmacist about Walgreen’s policy, he pointed to the surveillance cameras above the tincture of iodine shelf. Legitimate medical laboratories that do gram staining now have additional paperwork due to the restrictions on iodine strengths and quantities.

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While there is no federal mandate for small quantities, iodine has disappeared from a few pharmacies and department store shelves the way Sudafed did most recently. Home brewers take heart, these pharmacists just require that you sign a poison-control statement and list the reason for your purchase. For those of you who still buy your beer in the traditional manner, iodine is often used as a test for starch conversion in the mash.
Designs for Vision is excited to be presenting several new products at the 2015 Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting.

“Designs for Vision was started by my father, Dr. Williams Feinbloom, as an optical company, and during the 1970s our magnification and illumination products found applications in operating rooms and in operatories,” said company President Richard Feinbloom. “The [Midwinter Meeting] has always provided that comfortable space where industry and professional can interact and exchange ideas. This year we are featuring our ULTRA Mini 2.5x Telescopes, Nike® Retro and DVI Sport frames, and the NanoCamHD™ loup-mounted video camera. This is a unique opportunity to reach an important target market to introduce a major optical innovation,” Feinbloom said.

A pair of ULTRA Mini Telescopes weigh as little as 34 grams (1.2 ounces) and are 40 percent smaller than regular telescopes, thus allowing for easier peripheral vision. “The ULTRA Mini Telescopes,” Feinbloom said, “like our world-renowned Dental Telescopes, provide 2.5x magnification that is fully customized to the individual user, providing ergonomic advantages to our customers. Designs for Vision matches the focal length of each telescope to the ideal working distance of our customers. This way the depth of focus surrounds their ideal working distance, instead of adapting to a pre-set focal length.

“We have been working with dentists and hygienists who required true 2.5x magnification, but desired a lighter, smaller device for all-day use. Designs for Vision wanted to design and engineer a full feature system that offered all of the features our customers expect of a Designs for Vision product. The lens system uses the same precision-coated optics as our traditional magnification systems. We can also accommodate eyeglass prescriptions into the ULTRA Mini Telescopes.”

The Nike Retro frames are exclusive to Designs for Vision. Available in tortoise shell, black and translucent gray, the Nike Retro has a classic look. The DVI Sport frames can be used for all magnifications and can incorporate eyeglass prescriptions — providing the protective wrap without any distortion.

Designs for Vision’s new NanoCamHD records digitally at 1080 high-definition resolution. The NanoCamHD records magnified HD images from the user’s perspective. The complete system includes 2.5x, 3.5x and 4.5x lens systems to match the typical magnifications, providing a true user’s point of view.

As an added feature, still photographs can be taken from live video feed or during playback mode. The video or still images can be uploaded into a patient file, included in a presentation or course, or shared with a colleague or laboratory for collaborative consultations.

The NanoCamHD complete system includes a color corrected ULTRA Mini LED DayLite® headlight. The combination headlight/NanoCamHD can be attached to loupes or can be worn on a lightweight headband.

The system also includes a foot pedal to enable hands-free operation of the NanoCamHD. Record/pause, mute/unmute and still photography are controlled by the operator hands-free via the pedal.

For best results, combine the NanoCamHD with Designs for Vision’s dental telescopes. Matching true magnification levels of 2.5x, 3.5x or 4.5x can produce realistic simulation from the user’s perspective. The NanoCam can also be attached to the new Nike Retro frames or the new DVI Sport frames.

Visit Designs for Vision at the Chicago Midwinter Dental Meeting at booths 2008 or 4021 to see the Visible Difference® yourself.

(Source: Designs for Vision)