Teaming up with Little League Baseball and Softball, the annual contest calls on players ages 8-14 to create a compelling, 10-word phrase describing the dangers of spit tobacco for a chance to win a trip to the Little League Baseball World Series and a cash prize.

“It’s an awesome program, and I told him that the most important thing is that maybe you’ll convince someone not to start,” said Alex’s mother, Beth Smith. “That’s the whole key — if you don’t start, then you don’t have to quit.”

The recent tragic loss of Tony Gwynn to oral cancer highlights the fact that educating Americans about the dangers of spit tobacco is more important than ever. The latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that while cigarette use continues to decline, spit tobacco use remains the same. In addition, almost half of all new users start before the age of 18, with 8.8 percent of all high school students using smokeless tobacco as of 2013. Through the slogan contest and other advocacy and education efforts throughout the year, NSTEP works to educate people, especially young people, about spit tobacco and helps all users quit.

“NSTEP provides Little League athletes with an opportunity to start a dialogue about an alarming trend in tobacco use on and off the field,” said Beth Truett, president and CEO of Oral Health America. “We are thrilled about the enthusiasm of youth engaging their peers with an important message about the dangers of smokeless tobacco.”

As the winner of the slogan contest, Alex received an all-expense paid trip to the Little League Baseball World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., and a cash prize. In addition, OHA is donating $500 to Alex’s local Little League program, the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League.

“Little League is pleased to be a part of helping educate Little League players about the risks associated with the use of spit tobacco,” said Stephen D. Keener, Little League president and CEO. “We hope that by participating in the slogan contest we help increase awareness for Little League players, coaches and their parents. We thank Oral Health America and commend them on NSTEP’s efforts.”

The winning slogan was chosen out of nearly 1,500 submissions from Little Leaguers from across the country, a contest record.

To learn more about spit tobacco, please visit www.nstep.org. There you will find brochures with resources to help current users quit and fact sheets that explain exactly why smokeless isn’t harmless

(Source: Oral Health America)

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‘Adaptive Image Noise Optimizer’ results in noise-free 3-D imaging

Crystal clear images support precise diagnostics

The ProMax® 3Ds and 3D units from Planmeca (California Dental Association exhibit hall booth No. 1636/1936) are designed for capturing the smallest anatomical details with precision. High-resolution images with a 75 μm voxel size and efficient artifact removal make these units ideal for effective case planning and precise diagnostic capabilities, according to the company.

Versatile, selectable volume sizes on the ProMax ensure observance of the ALARA radiation principle; these include 5-by-5 and 5-by-8 cm for the ProMax 3Ds and 4-by-5, 4-by-8, 8-by-5, and 8-by-8 for the ProMax 3D.

Noise-free images

The Planmeca AINO™ (Adaptive Image Noise Optimizer) is an intelligent 3-D noise filter that removes noise from CBCT images without losing valuable details. The result is a crystal clear, highly diagnostic image, according to the company. Features include:

- Analyzes the reconstruction exposure data during reconstruction and adaptively differentiates noise and fine details.
- AINO filter is enabled in Planmeca Romexis® 3D capturing screen, while the original image is also stored and accessible.
- Improves image quality in endodontic mode where noise is inherent because of small voxel sizes.
- Also useful in ultra low-dose images.

Artifact removal

Planmeca ARA™ artifact removal algorithm removes shadows and streaks from the 3-D image, such as those caused by metal and root fillings, according to Planmeca.

Ideal patient support

The adjustable patient support keeps the patient firmly and comfortably in place, providing high-quality images without artifacts caused by movement, according to Planmeca.

Comprehensive Planmeca Romexis software

All ProMax™ units include Planmeca Romexis open-architecture software with versatile tools for endodontic diagnostic and treatment planning needs, such as true measurements and 3-D visualization of root canals. CBCT applications in endodontics include:

- Assessment of endodontic treatment complications.
Conclusions
It is clear a correctly functioning tongue acts as a natural retainer, but when a patient habitually breathes through his or her mouth, the tongue is prevented from functioning in this correct way. In contrast, when the mouth remains closed and the tongue sits correctly, increased orthodontic stability can be expected.

Furthermore, when a patient maintains a closed-mouth posture and high-tongue posture, treatment time can be expected to lessen as forces exerted on the teeth will work favorably. Finally, it has been well-documented mouth breathing is not in the best interests of health, growth and correct development. Therefore, it is not reasonable to assume encouraging correct functional breathing patterns will have a reasonable to assume encouraging correct orthodontic stability.

References
5. Insights into Orthodontic Treatment. German O. Ramírez-Yanez. Dental Asia (July/August 2008).

Planmeca AINO removes noise from CBCT images without compromising diagnostic quality (top image uses filter, lower doesn’t).