

## **Local Anesthesia White Paper**

***Support a dentist's right to delegate the administration of local anesthesia to a properly educated, registered dental hygienist***

A study by the Caruth School of Dental Hygiene, Baylor College of Dentistry, The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, affirms public safety. Results show that properly educated dental hygienists in the states surveyed routinely administer local anesthetics to patients without harm.<sup>1</sup>

### **Proven Safe**

- ★ Since **1971** dental hygienists in other states have been permitted to administer local anesthesia under supervision with **NO** issues of patients being harmed.
- ★ Currently, ***45 other states, Washington D.C. and the military*** allow registered dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia.
- ★ The evidence is clear that properly educated dental hygienists can safely administer local anesthesia.

### **Patient Focused**

- ★ Local anesthesia allows a dental hygienist to provide complete, compassionate care for patients experiencing pain during dental hygiene procedures.
- ★ Local anesthesia numbs the gum tissues and teeth in a specific area of the mouth.

### **Additional Education Required**

- ★ For practicing hygienists, to do this procedure additional formal classroom education approved by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners would be required.
- ★ For students, clinical instruction in administering local anesthesia would be added to their existing curriculum.

### **Totally Permissive**

- ★ The **dentist must delegate** this procedure to the dental hygienist and be in the office when it is performed.
- ★ ***53% of TDA dentists polled in 2008 supported this effort.***

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<sup>1</sup> Scofield JC<sup>1</sup>, Gutmann ME, DeWald JP, Campbell PR., Disciplinary actions associated with the administration of local anesthetics against dentists and dental hygienists. Caruth School of Dental Hygiene, Baylor College of Dentistry, The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, Dallas, Texas, USA. *J Dent Hyg.* 2005 Winter;79(1):8. Epub 2005 Jan 1