

De Briefs

---A newsletter for the quality-conscious patients of Dr. David P. De Rosier

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From the soapbox

Because You Deserve It!

I was reading our last newsletter, which stated that we hoped to move in by the end of the year (that being the end of 2001). Well, four months late isn't too bad! We are very happy and excited about our new location, which opened on April 15, 2002.

Many of you have asked why we moved. We have responded with the practical answers: "we needed more space," "it was time for a remodel," "the other building wasn't being properly maintained," "we really wanted a purple office," etc. But what's the most important reason? Because YOU DESERVE IT! You deserve a dental office that is on par with the service we provide.

And the new office does just that.

I look forward to spending the rest of my career at 3019 Emerson Street!

If you haven't stopped by, please do! We'll give you the "grand tour!"

—Dr. Dave De Rosier



The end is near!

(The end of the year, that is.)

Now that fall is in full swing, many patients are asking, "Can we take care of this before the end of the year so I can use this year's insurance benefits?"

As you know, insurance benefits are a "use it or lose it" situation each year.

So: if you're in need of some preventive or cosmetic treatment and want to utilize your insurance money to the fullest, call Lisa to get on the schedule. The holidays will be here before we know it!

Does the grim reaper have teeth?

Kind of a strange question, isn't it? As it turns out, a study found a connection between poor dental health and higher mortality rates.

Recently, a six-year study of 2000 elderly people in Japan was completed. In the study, the participants, who had an average age of 80, were examined at the beginning of the study. Six years later, the researchers found that participants who had poor dental health at the beginning of the study had worse physical and mental impairment and a higher mortality rate by the end of the study. Also, those without teeth who didn't wear dentures had nearly double the mortality rate of those with 20 or more teeth.

One can conclude that you are what you eat: if you can't eat due to missing teeth or poor-fitting dentures, your health is affected.

Food for thought for optimum oral health!

A reminder:

Our practice has grown through the referrals of satisfied patients – and we always welcome new patients!

Dr. - Why are you grabbing my tongue?

I want to share with you a recent survey of dental patients in Maryland that disturbed me. It stated that only seven percent of patients reported that their dentist performed an oral cancer screening.

My first thought was: “Oh– it’s being performed and the patients didn’t know it was happening.” Wrong. How could 93% of patients be unaware of what’s going on inside their mouths?

In dental school, I was taught to screen every new patient, and then again at checkup appointments. When I run my fingers around your mouth and pull out your tongue, I’m performing a cancer screening.

In a high-volume dental clinic, there isn’t time for many of these very important preventive procedures—that we perform on a daily basis.

So next time I grab your tongue, say “AH!” and know that we are committed to your optimal oral health.

Anatomy lesson

I am writing this on my way home from an exhilarating dental education course. I have spent the past three days reviewing head and neck anatomy—something that my wife Kerri didn’t want many details about upon my return!

You might be thinking, “what does head and neck anatomy have to do with dentistry?” What I learned was, “everything!”

We have all heard the saying “form follows function.” What does that mean? In nature, the shapes of things are dictated by what they do. An octopus, for example, can squeeze itself into a very small opening to protect itself from predators. Why? Because his form (his gelatinous body) follows function (his need to hide from predators).

In dentistry, having a thorough understanding of the anatomy (the form) enables me to have a thorough understanding of the signs and symptoms patients exhibit—and therefore restore them back to health (the function). Knowing where the muscles of the head and neck attach, and where the nerves and blood vessels that supply them are located allows me to accurately diagnose conditions that affect your oral health.

For example, pain in the lower jaw could be a toothache, an overworked muscle that attaches there, pain referred from a muscle in the neck—or it could be the first sign of a heart attack. Having a thorough understanding of anatomy lets me know if you need a root canal, a splint to prevent you from grinding your teeth—or bypass surgery!

Taking classes like this keeps me excited about dentistry, and allows me to continually improve. What’s in it for you? Receiving the best that dentistry has to offer.

“What does head and neck anatomy have to do with dentistry?? . . . “Everything.”

New faces. . .

If you’ve been in lately to get your teeth cleaned, you likely saw a new face. We’re excited to share that we’ve been sifting through a lot of high-qualified candidates for our hygiene staff—and the search is almost concluded! We look forward to introducing you to our newest staff member in our next issue.

Where do I park?

A quick note about parking at the new office:

On rare occasions, the spaces up front may be full. If you arrive and find no spaces up front, go behind the building and park behind the staff’s cars. We’re not going anywhere as long as you’re in the office!

Keeping current . . .

January 11

CPR re-certification

February 8

Newport Harbor Academy of Dentistry
Esthetic Dentistry

February 10–15

The Pankey Institute
Occlusal Reconstruction and Complex Treatment Planning

March 18

Gott Perio Study Club
Occlusion and its Relationship to Periodontal Disease

March 29

Newport Harbor Academy of Dentistry
Prosthetic Strategies in the Partially Edentulous

May 24

Newport Harbor Academy of Dentistry
Prosthetic Problem Solving

September 12–14

Head and Neck Anatomy Course

September 27

Newport Harbor Academy of Dentistry
Creating Natural Beauty with Dental Restorations

October 4

OSHA Review