Most important: diagnosis and treatment planning

By L. Stephen Buchanan, DDS, FICD, FACD

I’m excited and honored to be back as a lecturer at the Yankee Dental Congress. Some of the finest dentistry in the world happens in the Northeast, and I generally learn as much from your questions as I hope you learn from my 30 years of clinical experience in the field of endodontics.

Today, I am going to talk about diagnosis and treatment planning — one of my favorite lectures because it is filled with information that can truly put you in a position to save your patients’ lives and give them the definitive treatment they all deserve.

From reproducing patients’ symptoms to ruling out non-endodontic etiologies, diagnosis and treatment planning has been, and always will be, the most important aspects of clinical care. It matters less how many lateral canals you filled than whether you diagnosed the correct tooth or figured out it’s not endo related but something more threatening to your patients’ health.

Join me for what should prove to be a fascinating afternoon. It will be good to see all my friends in Boston at the Yankee Dental Congress.

About the author

L. Stephen Buchanan, DDS, FICD, FACD, completed the endodontic graduate program at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1980. In 1989, he established Dental Education Laboratories, through which he has lectured and conducted participation courses around the world, published various articles and produced a video series, “The Art of Endodontics.” He is a diplomat of the American Board of Endodontics and a fellow of the International and American Colleges of Dentistry. He also serves as an assistant clinical professor at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry and at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry. He maintains a private practice limited to endodontics and implant surgery in Santa Barbara, Calif. Buchanan can be reached through his company, Dental Education Laboratories, at www.endobuchanan.com, info@endobuchanan.com or by calling (805) 899-4529.

—are you and your practice protected?

“I had no idea storing my patients’ credit card numbers on my business computer would jeopardize everything I have worked so hard for.”

Dr. Harvey thought he was doing the right thing by storing his patients’ credit card data on his office computer.

“I thought I was providing convenience for my patients,” he said. “I wanted to make it easy; I didn’t think twice about it.”

Then one evening, someone from the office cleaning crew found a printout of the credit card list, and that was the beginning of a two-year process that almost ended Harvey’s dental practice.

River Cohen, chief executive officer of Compliance Services, said: “We started our company with a clear mission: to protect you and your practice from a data–related catastrophic event. Quality care for patients extends beyond the dental chair. More electronic data means more risk of loss, more potential fraud, more regulatory requirements and more risk of fines for non-compliance.”

Is your patient data really safe? Do you have a disaster recovery plan? Do you understand and adhere to PCI and HIPAA regulations?

Cohen said: “We have a simple formula that works: 1) We get you compliant with HIPAA and PCI. 2) We provide encrypted, off-site data backup and restoration. 3) We provide you with $100,000 data protection coverage.”

Where is Harvey now? He uses the help of Compliance Services to make sure his practice is no longer wide open for fraud.

Harvey said he now focuses on what he loves most: improving the smiles of his patients.

“I have learned a very expensive lesson,” he said.

More information

For more information, contact Compliance Services at (800) 871-7640 or go to www.dentalpracticecompliance.com.