Getting to the point

AAE gears up for Root Canal Awareness Week

The American Association of Endodontists will mark its 12th annual Root Canal Awareness Week, May 6-12, with an array of informative resources showcasing the benefits of root canal treatment from a specialist, or “superhero of saving teeth,” and thanking general dentists for their referrals.

“Root Canal Awareness Week sends a powerful message about the valuable work that endodontists provide to our dental patients,” said AAE President Dr. Garry L. Myers. “We want the public to feel more empowered to seek out a root canal specialist on their own to combat tooth pain — and we also would like to recognize the important referral relationship that exists between the general dentist and the endodontist. While endodontists are the root canal specialists, general dentists are also a valuable part of our ‘legion,’ and together we make a ‘dynamic duo’ when saving teeth.”

To encourage collaboration between general dentists and endodontists, the AAE offers many resources, including:

- *Endodontic Competency White Paper:* These AAE guidelines are meant to create a context for knowledge and skill that should provide a standard for practitioners who perform endodontic treatment.
- *Case Difficulty Assessment Form:* This form makes case selection more efficient, more consistent and easier to document.
- *“Treatment Options for the Compromised Tooth: A Decision Guide:*” This guide features different cases where the tooth has been compromised in both non-endodontically treated teeth and previously endodontically treated teeth.
- *Root Canal Safety Webpage:* This page includes AAE resources designed to help dental professionals advocate for good dental health and root canal safety.

Dental professionals are encouraged to join the root canal conversation on social media by connecting with the AAE on Facebook and Twitter, using the #RCAW hashtag to help spread the word and sharing Root Canal Awareness Week activities with the AAE.

(Source: American Association of Endodontists)
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Today is also your last chance to check out the To The Point lectures, being held in the exhibit hall. The final lecture, taking place from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. today, is sponsored by Sonendo and titled “Inflection Points in Endodontics: How Technology is Changing Root Canal Therapy.” Of course, you’ll want to spend most of your time actually perusing the aisles and aisles of vendors, but in case you’re on a time crunch, here are a few exhibitors not to be missed.

Avalon Biomed, at booth No. 1315, is one you’ll want to take a closer look at. This year, the company is highlighting its NeoMTA Plus. Unlike conventional bioactive cements (MTAs) that are mixed with water and form a coarse wet sand consistency that is difficult to pick up and place, Avalon Biomed NeoMTA Plus is mixed with its gel to create a putty that can be easily formed into whatever shape is needed.

NeoMTA Plus can be mixed to a variety of viscosities by varying the powder-to-gel ratio; it can be mixed thick for use as a putty in various vital pulp or endodontic procedures or thin for use as an endodontic sealer. Special placement devices are not necessary to deliver the material. Make sure to take advantage of the buy one, get one free show special that the company is offering here at AAE18 and also be entered to win a Yeti product.

COLTENE, at booth No. 303, has a variety of products available, but if you’re interested in drying root canals, you might want to ask for a demo of the Surgitip-Endo aspirator tip. The instrument features a ball joint design that allows for a multi-directional flexibility — allowing access into hard-to-reach root canals without having to bend the CanalTip. Its design enables aspiration to be highly effective at all angles without constricting visibility, according to the company.

Plus, if you buy 10 paper points during the AAE18, COLTENE will give you a pack of Surgitip-Endo to try out for free.

In the market for a new 3-D imaging device? Head over to Planmeca at booth No. 420 to see its Planmeca ProMax 3Ds. Ideally suited for endodontics, the system comes with an optional endodontic imaging mode that promises to provide clear visualization of even the finest anatomical details at a high resolution.

There are many other exhibitors to take a look at as well, but remember to hurry. The exhibit hall closes at 6 p.m. today and won’t be open again until 2019.