

Chapter 1

Perspectives on Local Anesthesia for Dental Professionals

True or false

1) Troubleshooting is the ability to critically assess and resolve anesthesia inadequacies in order to provide comfortable patient care.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

Objective: 1

2) Dental hygienists and mid-level providers in all states and provinces receive the same education, and require the same level of supervision for administering local anesthesia.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Specific requirements for dental hygienists and mid-level providers vary regarding the type, degree, or extent of injections, as well as the required extent of supervision, education, and examination. Clinicians must be knowledgeable regarding the specifics of the practice acts governing their particular practice locations.

Objective: 1

3) Dentists are the only providers of local anesthesia in dentistry in North America.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Explanation: B) In most states and provinces, dental local anesthesia providers include dentists, dental hygienists, and in some states and provinces, mid-level and/or expanded function clinicians.

Objective: 2

4) The first state to license dental hygienists to deliver local anesthetic agents was California in 1975.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Explanation: B) The first state to license dental hygienists to deliver local anesthetic agents was Washington in 1971.

Objective: 2

5) The first state to license dental hygienists to deliver local anesthetic agents was Washington in 1971.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

Objective: 2

6) Dentists have been able to deliver local anesthetic drugs in cartridge form since 1884.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Dentists have been able to deliver local anesthetic drugs in cartridge form since 1921.

Objective: 2

7) Troubleshooting anesthesia inadequacies always requires referral to a dental specialist.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Every dental professional who administers local anesthesia can and should have ready troubleshooting skills, and familiarity with pain control alternatives.

Objective: 3

8) Only a dentist can assess and resolve anesthesia inadequacies.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Every dental professional who administers local anesthesia can and should have ready troubleshooting skills, and familiarity with pain control alternatives.

Objective: 3

9) Mastering a wide variety of techniques is critical to safe and effective pain control.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

Objective: 3

Multiple choice

1) The fundamentals of pain management include all of the following except

A) Comprehensive assessment

B) Knowledge of drug effects

C) Periodontal assessment

D) Mastering multiple injection techniques

Answer: C

Objective: 1

2) The fundamentals of pain management include

A) Administering drugs that provide the shortest period of anesthesia possible

B) Patient safety

C) Integrating evidence based knowledge in clinical decisions

D) Knowledge in a wide variety of techniques

Answer: A

Objective: 1

3) Local anesthetics have been available in dentistry since

A) 1971

B) 1948

C) 1906

D) 1884

Answer: D

Objective: 1

4) Which situations best demonstrate the fundamentals of pain management?

A) A clinician assesses the patient, including taking vital signs. The patient receives the same dose of drug that has always been effective. Today the patient is not adequately numb and he is asked to reschedule an appointment for another day.

B) A clinician assesses the patient and determines there is no physical reason the patient could not receive anesthesia for periodontal maintenance. The patient reports she always has difficulty getting numb therefore the patient is referred to a periodontist for treatment.

C) A clinician assesses the patient and readies the patient for treatment. The patient mentions that he was not numb enough at his last appointment. It is decided that another drug and technique will be tried at this appointment.

D) A clinician asks the patient if she has had any difficulty with anesthesia in the past. The patient indicates she has never had any problem and always gets really numb; therefore treatment is provided without difficulty.

Answer: C

Objective: 1

Short answer/essay

1) Discuss a provider's responsibility for troubleshooting local anesthesia inadequacies.

Answer: Every provider of local anesthesia should have confidence in his or her pain control strategies, have ready troubleshooting skills, and familiarity with alternate techniques to provide successful anesthesia.

2) Discuss the responsibility of local anesthesia providers.

Answer: Providing safe, effective, and appropriate pain control is a responsibility of all dental local anesthesia providers. This requires knowledge of and competency with the fundamentals of pain management.

Objective: 3

3) Discuss the fundamentals of pain management.

Answer: The fundamentals of pain management include conducting a comprehensive patient assessment, recognizing and responding to patient factors, integrating evidence-based knowledge, and understanding relevant drugs, their effects, indications, and contraindications. Fundamentals also include developing clinical decision-making skills and mastering a wide variety of techniques and appropriate modifications.

Objective: 1