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Perio Interceptive Surgery

Dentinal Hypersensitivity

Acne Calcification

Endotoxins

IN ENDONTIC INFECTIONS

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Gurminder Sidhu, BDS, DDS, MS; Jaswinder Sandhu, BDS; and William Carpenter, DDS, MS

Mona Lisa, a 10-pound Chihuahua/Dachshund mix, has become a welcome addition for the staff and patients at the La Jolla practice of Dr. Tracy A. Taddey and her father, Dr. John Taddey. →

Photo: Michael Spengler



Pooch in the Practice: Mona Lisa Makes Patients Smile

BY PATTY REYES, CDE

While it remains an age-old mystery behind the smile of Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, it is far less ambiguous for the patients of a father-daughter dental team when it comes to their dental therapy pooch, Mona Lisa.

When Tracy A. Taddey, DDS, recently joined her father's practice in La Jolla, Calif., a picturesque seaside community in San Diego, she brought along Mona Lisa, a rescued 18-month-old Chihuahua/Dachshund mix, as a way to soothe any nervousness or tension a patient may have about their dental procedure.

The 10-pound wonder with short, butterscotch-colored fur and welcoming green eyes has a wide fan base.

"I can honestly say that Mona has been enthusiastically embraced by all of our patients," said Taddey, a third-generation

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RDAs Needed for Medical Mission to Central America

International Medical Alliance, a nonprofit group based in Southern California, is looking for two registered dental assistants to volunteer for an upcoming medical mission to Esteli, Nicaragua, Aug. 4-14.

More than 60 dentists, nurses, doctors and support personnel already have volunteered for the trip to Nicaragua's third-largest city located on the Pan-American Highway, north of Managua.

"We have a very diverse group of volunteers joining us for our medical mission, including general, plastic, and maxillofacial surgeons," said Ines Allen, International Medical Alliance's founder and president. "However, we are still looking for two registered dental assistants to complete our team."

Room and board will be provided by the Nicaraguan government; volunteers are expected to pay for their own airfare.

International Medical Alliance recruits health care workers from all medical fields to volunteer and help children and those with limited economic means. For more information about the mission or International Medical Alliance's efforts in the United States and abroad, contact Ines Allen at 760-485-8963 or go to internationalmedicalalliance.org.



Lower Income, Minority, Special Needs Children More Likely to Suffer Toothaches

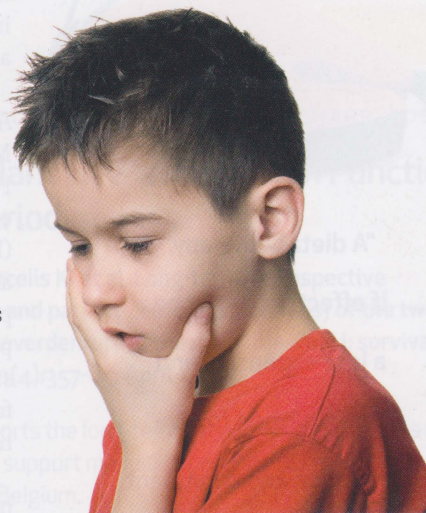
Toothaches, according to a recent study, are more likely to afflict poor, minority, and special needs children.

“Toothache is a source of chronic and often severe pain that interferes with a child’s ability to play, eat, and pay attention in school,” said authors in a report published in an issue of *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. “The most common cause of toothache is dental decay” and the “process of dental decay is one that optimally would be prevented or, at the very least, identified early and then arrested through provision of regular professional dental care. However, for some U.S. children, including those who are Medicaid-insured, access to preventive and restorative dental care is more difficult.”

Studying data from the 2007 National Survey of Children’s Health, Charlotte Lewis, MD, MPH, and James Stout, MD, MPH, both of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, tried to determine the risk factors and frequency for toothache in children. A population-based sample of parents/guardians of 86,730 children between ages 1 and 17, from every state and the District of Columbia was the source of the data. Authors found that an estimated 10.7 percent of U.S. children had a toothache in the previous six months. A toothache was the most reported affliction for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 12; one in seven reported toothaches in the past six months.

Additionally, findings revealed that 58 percent of children who had a toothache also had cavities within the past six months.

The original article, “Toothache in U.S. Children,” by Lewis C, Stout J, appeared in *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*, 164(11):1059-63, November 2010. Additional information provided by *ScienceDaily*, sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/11/101101161831.htm. (Accessed Jan. 13, 2011.)



MONA LISA, CONTINUED FROM 138

levity as patients register, leave the office, or make their next appointment. Patients can call and specifically ask if Mona will be available for their appointment, Taddey said. “One of our patients made (Mona Lisa) a handmade quilt, which accompanies us everywhere, and she sits on this on the patient’s lap when she is requested for their procedure.”

Taddey practices with her father, John Taddey, DDS, just as he practiced with his father, also named Dr. John Taddey, in the Bronx. Dr. Tracy Taddey’s father also taught postgraduate dentistry at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx before putting down roots in La Jolla in 1974 at a location where he still works today. Prior to joining her father’s practice, Dr. Tracy Taddey, a 1998 graduate from what is now known as the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco, opened her own in Clairemont Mesa in 2001, where she currently also works part time.

“Practicing together as father-daughter, and as a third-generation dentist, is a

true blessing and is an amazing experience we are both grateful for every day,” said Dr. Tracy Taddey. “My dad has always been my inspiration, my mentor, and my best friend. He has taught me more than I ever could have learned in dental school, and as we combine our generations, we learn from each other all the time. My dad is very open-minded and progressive. He is very excited to have the addition of “pet therapy” to his 37-year-old La Jolla practice. I am honored to follow in his path and provide new dimensions to the strong foundation he has spent his life building.

“Having Mona on board only provides another level of happiness, uniqueness, and caring that we can offer to our patients. We agree that it is very gratifying as doctors to know that not only do we provide excellent dental treatment to our patients, but they are having a soothing and happy experience while we take care of their long-term dental health. Our relationships with our patients are our first priority and Mona only adds to this bond and the evolution of the practice.”

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