

Good Morning, Dr. Penhaskashi

April 26, 2017

Editor's Note

The *ADA Morning Huddle* compiles news stories from a wide range of sources to let you know what the general media is saying about dentistry, whether or not it agrees with the ADA's views. Publication of an article in the *Morning Huddle* in no way implies ADA's endorsement, agreement, or promotion of a particular article.

Dentistry in the News



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May JADA Examines Oral Malignant Melanoma Prognostic Factors.

The [ADA News](#) (4/25) reports that "early and detailed examinations for oral malignant melanoma are critical for improving the survival rate," according to the May [cover story](#) of The Journal of the American Dental Association. The study confirmed multiple prognostic factors – including age of diagnosis, decade of diagnosis, tumor size, extent of disease, and socioeconomic status – are associated with oral malignant melanoma survival, according to the authors. In a statement to ADA

News, the authors said, "Dentists should examine pigmented lesions carefully, especially in older patients and patients of lower socioeconomic status who are often diagnosed later, resulting in a worse prognosis."

FROM THE ADA

Seven Risk Factors for Oral Cancer

Approximately 49,750 people will be diagnosed with oral cavity and oropharynx cancers this year. Regular dental visits can help detect such cancers early, and changing a few potentially harmful habits may also help reduce a person's chances of developing them. Share the [top seven risk factors for oral cancer](#) with your patients.



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ADA Reaffirms Support For Dental and Optometric Care Access Act.

The [ADA News](#) (4/25, Garvin) reports that following the National Association of Dental Plan's opposition to the Dental and Optometric Care Access Act, the ADA is reaffirming its support for the bill. Last month the Association and American Optometric Association [announced their support](#) for H.R. 1606. The article reports that the bill, also called the DOC Access Act, "prevents federally regulated plans from noncovered services practices, including offering no or nominal payments for services dictated by the plans and also from imposing restrictions on medical plan participation" and setting limits on lab choice.

Follow all of the ADA's advocacy efforts at ADA.org/Advocacy.

Kentucky's Proposed Medicaid Overhaul Includes Dental Rewards Program.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) (4/24, Rappleye) reports that Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and his administration are "negotiating a Medicaid overhaul with the federal government that includes monthly premiums, work requirements and a rewards program that requires 'able-bodied' adults to earn vision and dental coverage." As part of the overhaul, the Medicaid proposal calls for removing dental and vision coverage from the program for "able-bodied adults," although these individuals would be able to earn points to use toward these

benefits. If the proposal is approved, the new program would go into effect in January 2018.

Health and Safety

Local Dentists Support Fluoridation Around The US.

The [ADA News](#) (4/24) reports that city councils and voters considered community water fluoridation in many areas around the US this spring, and "in each instance, local dentists played a part in educating community members about the safety and benefits of water fluoridation, which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century." The article provides a summary of votes in Durango, Colorado; Fellsmere, Florida; Alexandria, Indiana; Arab, Alabama; and Wilmington, Ohio.

Additional information about fluoride and community water fluoridation is available at ADA.org/fluoride. The ADA Catalog also features the [Fluoride Nature's Cavity Fighter](#) brochure.

Florida Health Department Promoting Oral Health In Martin County.

[TC Palm \(FL\)](#) (4/25, Rouse) reports the Florida Department of Health in Martin County has unveiled “a newly wrapped van” with messages reminding people to brush and floss their teeth. According to the article, the Florida Department of Health in Martin County is using the van “to help promote the school based dental sealant program and raise awareness about the importance of oral health.” Each week the van visits area schools and daycare centers to provide dental services.

Dental Industry

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UW-Madison Researchers Studying How Microbiomes Impact Health, Environment.

The [Warren \(OH\) Tribune Chronicle](#) (4/25, Wahlberg) reports that University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers are studying how microbiomes impact a variety of interests, ranging from dental decay and diabetes, to climate and agriculture. Among examples of some studies already underway, the article notes that last year Melissa Christopherson, a faculty associate in

bacteriology, compared the mouth microbiomes of UW-Madison athletes and non-athletes to understand why “elite athletes seem to get more cavities than other people.” The research showed “athletes’ microbiomes had different quantities of three species of microbes.” As part of a new initiative on campus supporting microbiome research, that finding can now be explored further.

Coverage Continues: 13,000-Year-Old Teeth May Contain Earliest Evidence Of Fillings.

[Fox News](#) (4/25, Gannon) reports researchers believe they have discovered “what is perhaps the oldest known example of tooth-filling” in a pair of 13,000-year-old teeth found in northern Italy. In addition to discovering the teeth were hollowed out, inside the holes the researchers found “traces of bitumen, a tar-like substance that might have been used as an antiseptic or a filling to protect the tooth from getting infected,” the article reports. The findings are published in a [paper](#) in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

ADA in the News

Citric And Fruit Acids In Beverages May Cause Dental Erosion.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Krieger) discussed the impact of flavored waters on teeth, stating the flavor essences in these beverages are “mostly citric and other fruit acids,” which can cause tooth erosion. When enamel on teeth erodes, it can cause teeth to become “hypersensitive to temperature and potentially more cavity-prone,” said Dr. Edmond R. Hewlett, a spokesperson for the American Dental Association and professor at the UCLA School of Dentistry.

[MouthHealthy.org](#) provides additional information for patients on [nutrition and dental health](#).

Burning Mouth Syndrome Discussed.

[Refinery 29](#) (4/24) discusses burning mouth syndrome, which can cause the tongue, gums, throat, and other parts of the mouth to feel “like they’re burning or have been scalded.”

Other symptoms may include a dry mouth and metallic taste. The article states that the condition affects women more than men, and most often affects post-menopausal women. Given this, the article states some researchers “suspect that changes in estrogen and progesterone levels [may be somewhat responsible](#) for the condition.” Diagnosing burning mouth syndrome can be difficult since other dental and medical conditions can cause similar symptoms. The article notes that the American Dental Association [states](#) the condition is “only given as a diagnosis when no other cause for that burning sensation is found.”

[MouthHealthy.org](#) provides additional information for patients on [women’s hormones and dental health](#).

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Charitable Dentistry

Virginia Dental Association Members To Offer Free Oral Cancer Screenings Saturday.

[WTKR-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (4/24) reports online that members of the Virginia Dental Association will offer free oral cancer screenings in Virginia Beach on Saturday. WTKR reports that “the family-friendly program is free and the exam will take less than two minutes.”

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CDA Cares Event Provides Nearly \$1.6 Million In Free Dental Care.

In a release on [PR Web](#) (4/24), the California Dental Association Foundation states that its recent two-day dental clinic, CDA Cares, “provided nearly \$1.6 million in charitable dental services to 1,961 people.” More than 2,300 volunteers, including dentists, donated their time and services during the April 22-23 event, which took place at the San Mateo County Event Center. In addition to

providing free dental care, “CDA Cares educates the public and policymakers about the importance of good oral health and the need for an adequately funded dental safety net, which includes a well-functioning Denti-Cal program,” the release states. “The oral health need in our state remains dire – as we saw by the long line of people seeking care this weekend,” said CDA President Clelan Ehrler, DDS, MS.

Additional information on CDA Cares San Mateo is available [online](#).

For Dentist In Georgia, “Helping Others Is Fundamental.”

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/21, Jiménez) profiles Dr. Lía Patricia Gallo, who came to the US 17 years ago “seeking a better future for her daughters and a safer environment for her family.” After completing her dental degree, Dr. Gallo opened her own practice in Georgia. The article reports that Dr. Gallo has donated dental treatments to many individuals, including “62 individuals in recovery for drug addiction,” and “more than 200 low-income Hispanics through the organization Good News Clinic.” The article adds, “For Gallo, helping others is fundamental.”

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