New Survey Finds Gaps Exist in the Knowledge of Basic Dental Terms

A recent survey by Delta Dental found that many adults lack knowledge of basic dental terms. Even though more than 40% of adults have periodontal disease, around 1/3 were not familiar with the term. The survey also found that 2 in 5 adults were unsure of what sealants were and only 25% knew that caries was another word for tooth decay. On a positive note, most were familiar with plaque (92%) and gingivitis (87%).

Lack of knowledge can be a barrier to accepting treatment or even making and keeping regular dental visits. Only 36% knew the term prophylaxis. People may not ask for more clarification if they are embarrassed or sense that 'the office is busy' so they don't want to take up more of your time.

Videos are a great tool for enhancing patient understanding of terms, treatments, and recommendations. Many people use YouTube on a regular basis as a way to learn or gain new skills. The Waterpik® Channel on YouTube can help your patients understand why and how to use the Waterpik® Water Flosser. Another helpful channel is called Teeth Talk Girl, where people can learn about dental care in a fun environment.
We enjoy meeting dental professionals

I'm Carol Jahn, (on the right in blue), the long-time editor of this newsletter. As I travel the country giving continuing education courses and attending dental conventions, it's always a great pleasure to have some one come up to me and say "I get your newsletter!". We appreciate and value your support of our products.

One of the ways that we give back to the dental community is by providing continuing education courses. We have several free self-study courses on our webpage, I have several different live courses and I can come and speak to groups of 50 or more.

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