Jenny Lau

Den 1100

Greater New York Dental Meeting – Writing Assignment

**Part 1:** Select one Dental Hygiene – related clinic table poster research that you found to be most interesting and felt worthy of receiving first prize.

The clinic table poster research that most captivated my interest was #87, Dental Management of Patients Who are HIV Positive, by Nikita Thomas, DMD of New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Out of many posters that I looked at, this had a good balance of images and text that was straight to the point. There were clearly labeled images of various oral lesions, as well as text of good size and spacing. Some posters I looked at were full of images with captions and others seemed overloaded with information. I also feel that the title of this poster presentation was easy to understand, which is important for those of us in the audience with little knowledge of medical terminology.

The presenter used a very organized format, clearly indicating the introduction, methods and materials, results, conclusion, as well as a list of references. This made it simple to follow and navigate. For example, I got up to reading the discussion about “Kaposi’s sarcoma having a high predictive positive value in respect to changes in HIV status and progression” and found myself wanting to relate back to the images, which I was easily able to do. The introduction spoke to me, because as a dental hygiene student, one of the first things we learn is to treat all patients equally. It points out that patients with HIV are living longer and healthy lives and emphasizes the importance of incorporating comprehensive dental care into their overall health regime. I felt inspired that the author’s “purpose is to provide dentists with sufficient guidelines in order to offer quality oral health care for the HIV + patient.”

The information provided in this poster presentation related completely to our stage of learning in the dental hygiene program, because we have just covered the topic of lesions. Additionally, as we progress in the program, we will eventually see patients who may present with a HIV + status. The knowledge I have gained from this presentation helps me feel more prepared and aware in the event I have a HIV + patient. I knew that HIV/AIDS patients have compromised immune systems but based on the author’s research and contrary to popular belief, “there is little evidence of high rates of complications (infection, excessive bleeding, delayed healing, or alveolitis) associated with invasive dental treatment in patients with HIV,” when risk factors were adjusted for. I also learned that oral markers generally should not be used as an indication of changes in HIV status, except for Kaposi’s Sarcoma, rather CD4 count (seroconversion).

I believe that this clinic table poster research is worthy of receiving first prize, because the information presented was clear and concise, well organized, relevant, and credible. The author reviewed 516 research articles from medical databases Medline and Embase, consisting of controlled clinical trials, randomized controlled trials, multicenter study, epidemiologic research design, comparative study, evaluation study, outcome and process assessment, outcome assessment, or treatment outcomes. I feel that this presentation eliminates much of the stigma associated with providing medical treatment to HIV/AIDS patients, which is important because they deserve to receive equal, if not more medical attention, such as interview/follow-up regarding any clinical symptoms.

**Part 2:** Reference List

Benjamin, R. (2012). Oral Health Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS. Public Health Reports, 127(2\_suppl), 1-2.

Mosca, & Rose Hathorn. (2006). HIV-Positive Patients: Dental Management Considerations. Dental Clinics of North America, 50(4), 635-657.

Tobias, C., Fox, J., Walter, A., Lemay, C., & Abel, S. (2012). Retention of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Oral Health Care. Public Health Reports, 127(2\_suppl), 45-54.

**Part 3:** Write a short summary of your overall experience attending the Greater New York Dental Convention.

My experience attending the Greater New York Dental Convention was positive by far. Prior to attending, my classmate advised downloading the Greater New York Dental Meeting phone application. I browsed the application hoping to get an idea of what to expect before attending. However, I was overwhelmed by the extensive list of courses, events, and exhibitors. Upon arriving, I was in awe seeing Jacob Javits Center so packed. I have been there for other events and it previously felt spacious. Even though there was so much going on, everything was very well organized and matched up perfectly with the floor plan that I received from the information booth. I felt that everyone was friendly and informative, even up until the end of a long day, and all the samples I received was the cherry on top. I deeply enjoyed seeing so many vendors passionate about their products, and I am looking forward to attending again. Hopefully next year I will know a lot more about all the various tools and technologies!