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**Donepezil (Aricept) and Aspirin**

Alzheimer’s disease is a disease that disrupts the memory of an individual. Its most diagnosed in older individuals and renders them from their memories. This horrific disease is commonly found in males. Despite its severity and the quantity of people having it, there isn’t any cure for it however there are treatments that can slow down the progression and improve the individual’s everyday life. In this essay, I will dive in to the medication; donepezil and aspirin and discuss certain issues Dentist and Dental Hygienist must be aware of when treating patients under these medications.

Donepezil also known as Aricept is a medication used to treat dementia related to Alzheimer disease. This medication does not cure It but improves the memory, awareness and ability to function properly. This medication is an enzyme blocker that restricts the balance of natural substances in the brain. Similar to many medications out there, this medication can cause serious allergies including; rash, itching/swelling on face/tongue/throat. When taking this medication its important is keep in mind that it reacts with other NASID such ibuprofen and naproxen which increase stomach/intestinal bleeding. This medication is not to be use on patient with heart conditions, have asthma, problems with liver, stomach ulcer, problems passing urine, etc. Patients with AD using this medicine have a higher chance of developing functional issues related to hepatic and renal functions. Symptoms such as low blood pressure, severe muscle weakness, drooling and slow heart rate are signs of overdose. Furthermore, Similar to many medications there are common side effects which include; sleep problems, weakness, shakiness, nausea, vomiting and or diarrhea.

Aspirin is a blood thinner medication used for pain and similar to donepezil is has side effects such as, upset stomach, heartburn, signs of kidney problems, nausea, vomiting, unexplained tiredness and dizziness. In severe cases stomach ulcers and intestinal bleeding might present itself. Similar to donepezil it can cause allergic reactions such as rash, itching/swelling on face/tongue/throat.

When it comes to treating a patient, who is under both medication, it is very important is be aware of the side effects and allergic reactions because we must know and understand when they are present and be able to conclude if the patient is having an allergic reaction, an overdose or it’s simply the side effects. It’s also important because when dealing with a patient who is presented with these side effects or allergic reaction it can become an obstacle when dealing with the patient. Aspirin cause the blood to become thinner allowing the patient to bleed excessively and this is important because we must avoid certain treatments that might cause bleeding. Taking into consideration that donepezil is used for patient with moderate to severe dementia we can assume that this patient is at least in the moderate stage of dementia which makes him/her harder to deal with due to their memory loss (harder to corporate), mixed emotions (harder to deal with), forgetting of events, feeling mentally challenge (patient comfort), changing in sleep pattern (difficult to set a schedule), personality and behavioral changes. When taking donepezil and aspirin it is important to keep note that aspirin is taking in a low dose (81-325 mg per day). Due to all the side effects of donepezil it’s usually taken before bed time, this is important because some side effects might present themselves in the morning.