



Five things I need from my periodontal partners

By Harry Randel, DMD, Academy News Guest Contributor

I decided to take a slightly different direction and involve my staff in identifying the five things I need from my periodontal partner. Although their answers were very similar and had a common theme of communication and coordination, here is what they offered from their perspective.

Hygienists - Danna, Cristelle:

1 Offer the patient the most up-to-date technology and surgical procedures. This may include CBCT, LANIP, connective tissue grafting, and tissue regeneration.

2 Communicate treatment protocols to our office. Are re-care appointments alternating? Post-laser treatment, which areas should be avoided? Is periodontal therapy being recommended and does oral hygiene need to be reinforced at re-care appointments in our office? Are there special instructions in caring for recently placed implants?

Front office - Susan, Michele:

3 Sharing of information. Make sure pertinent information is available for the patient's appointments in our office. This would include radiographs, periodontal charting and digital workflow. Facilitate clear, shared, coordinated communication between the restorative dentist, the periodontist, the patient, and the office staff at both offices.

Assistants - Janine, Alyssa:

4 Discuss the patient before the appointment. While we should not be led down someone else's treatment plan path without having input, we should know about the

patient. If a patient is going to lose a tooth or an arch of teeth, is there an emotional component, to which, we as a team, need to be sensitive? How prepared is the patient for treatment?

As a team:

5 Synergy: The creation of a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts is achieved by working as a team. A Jack-of-all-trades is a master of none. "Elevate the bar" by educating each other and the patient when planning and executing treatment. The patient's best interest is paramount.

In conclusion: Excellent treatment results are not just about the doctors' skills. They depend on the entire team working together.

Dr. Harry Randel is a prosthodontist in private practice in Philadelphia, PA. This article is part of a planned series on five things I need from my referring dentist.



Dr. Harry Randel