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Creating a dental patient safety initiative

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Medical adverse events are a leading cause of preventable death in the United States. While dentists, like physicians, routinely perform inherently risky, highly technical procedures in complex environments, patient safety has not received the same focus in dentistry as in medicine. As quantifying threats to patient safety is the first step towards systematically improving patient safety, this session will provide an update on (1) the creation of innovative tools to support the identification, tracking, and sharing of adverse events and other patient safety incidents in the dental setting and (2) how this approach can be applied in your clinical setting. The speaker will provide a brief introduction to patient safety efforts, including the Dental Patient Safety Initiative, and discuss the establishment of a tool that can effectively and efficiently detect dental adverse events and an innovative and practical process for chart reviews. Lastly she will discuss the types of adverse events that are encountered in everyday clinical life and how a patient safety initiative can be incorporated into quality improvement efforts in your organization.

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Implant diameter selection: A paradigm shift

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Traditionally, implant diameter selection has been determined based on anatomic and prosthetic parameters such as distance to adjacent teeth, residual ridge width and restorative emergence profile.

Current research emphasizes on the importance of implant tridimensional positioning and appropriate diameter selection in order to minimize loss of peri-implant tissues and render predictable gingival stability.

Furthermore, recent studies have isolated specific variables that will directly impact the behavior of peri-implant tissues over time. The aim of this presentation will be to analyze the classic parameters of diameter selection from a historical perspective and update classic concepts with an evidence-based approach.

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