

"Brighter and Whiter Dentistry" - Annual full day Seminar 2010

The VWDA annual seminar took place on Saturday June 19th at "Hilton on the Park" in East Melbourne. Issues involved in producing whiter and brighter dentistry for the patient and the dentist were addressed by an interesting accomplished array of speakers.

Dr Praveen Nathanieel's topic was: "Anterior Ceramics - pros and cons" and he began by describing the vast array of ceramic materials available, describing the stronger materials having the disadvantage of being more opaque due to the composition and therefore compromising aesthetics to some extent. The tooth preparation for a veneer was discussed emphasizing rounded inner angles and preps and cementation was described.

Dr Suzanne Hanlin discussed: "Posterior Ceramics - pros and cons". She identified the driving factors for all-ceramic crowns to be aesthetics, biocompatibility, conservation of tooth structure and cost but cautioned us that not many long term studies have yet been done and that perhaps all-ceramic crowns should not be used posteriorly. Dr Hanlin introduced a new term: bruxomaniacs - those who can destroy anything in the mouth. Inlays and onlays are the more 'conservative' restorations being done more frequently now.

Professor Martin Tyas's topic "Problems of Composites in Posterior Teeth" identified the problem of shrinkage as being a major issue. He explained that shrinkage was not towards the light but towards the bonded surface. Strategies to minimize shrinkage were described and the use of glass ionomer cement and its benefits was discussed. Professor Tyas informed us that wear of composite resin was no longer a major issue as there is a greater filler component and lower matrix component in modern composite resins.

Dr Mark Weiss spoke about: "Endo-When to Refer". He suggested that because of the very high percentage of 4th canals existing in all molar permanent teeth, many general practitioners should refer if they cannot find a 4th canal. Dr Weiss handed around an 'AAE Endodontic Case Difficulty Assessment Form' (American Association of Endodontics) which sets out very clearly in levels of difficulty all the criteria to be considered in making a decision about when to refer.

Ms Monique Sasson Wakelin from Wakelin Property Advisory talked about: "A Brighter Future: Property Investment". In a very entertaining and informative fashion Ms Wakelin who can often be heard on 774 ABC Radio on a Saturday morning talking about the property market, taught us all about wise property investment decisions as opposed to property acquired for owner occupation.

A good day was had by all present - before the delicious lunch break we had a bit of light relief and 'physical exercise' when a juggler 'bounced' into the room and attempted to teach us all to juggle (including some of the presenters).

The dental trade was well represented on the day and we give thanks to GC, Colgate, DentaVision, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer and SDI for their generous support and great door prizes.

Awards were presented at the end of the day just before 'happy hour':

VWDA Leadership Award: Dr Margarita Silva, pedodontist - presented by last year's winner Dr Karen Kan

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Outstanding Candidate in the ADC Final Clinical Exam: Dr Shazia Sayed

Highest Achieving Final Year Female BSc Student: Dr Grace Sha

Those who took part in the seminar gave very positive feedback.