

The dentist's role in protecting your patients' health.

A dental health case study, from Patrick Flinn, DDS.

Patient

A 43 year old woman presented for a new patient examination in March, 2008. Her medical history consisted of mild hypertension controlled by daily aspirin and a history of hay fever.

Chief Concern & Clinical Findings

The patient's chief complaint was that her gums felt uncomfortable and that she had a loose tooth on the lower left. Clinical examination revealed mobility of tooth #20 and a periodontal pocket deeper than the probe could measure. Moderate periodontitis was found around multiple teeth.

Potential Oral Cancer Found on X-ray

A panoramic radiograph was taken and a 3 x 6cm radiolucency was noted in the left mandible. The inferior border of the left alveolar canal appeared intact. The radiolucency appeared "scalloped" between adjacent teeth.

Treatment & Outcome

The patient was immediately referred and seen by an oral surgeon for biopsy. The biopsy revealed a marsupialization of mandibular cyst. The patient had the cyst removed and tooth #21 extracted. The cyst was benign and the patient is healing well.

Discussion for Doctors & Patients

This case underscores the importance of regular dental care. In addition to the many preventive health benefits it provides, a regular dental examination is likely the only way a problem like this (or a more serious one) would be discovered before symptoms developed. Fortunately for this patient, the cyst in her jaw was not cancerous.

Fear & Anxiety are Common Reasons for Avoiding the Dentist.

For some people, dental fear, anxiety or phobia make it difficult or impossible to visit the dentist. By working with a dentist who is experienced with people who are fearful or anxious – and who offers sedation for greater comfort – even those with dental phobia can get regular exams and treatment to protect their dental health.

[More about sedation dentistry with Patrick Flinn, DDS...](#)



Does your patient need to see a dentist right away?

If you notice...

- Poor dental hygiene
- Increased risk factors for oral cancer
- Dental injury
- Jaw pain of dental origin
- Loose teeth
- Swollen, puffy gums
- Dental pain

Ask about dental health history.

If fear or anxiety is keeping your patient from getting regular dental care, Patrick Flinn, DDS, can help.

To make a referral or discuss a case with Dr. Flinn, please call: (713) 797-0846

Dr. Patrick Flinn is part of the DDS Associates, LLP team, one of Houston's leading dental practices.

Dr. Patrick Flinn

DDS ASSOCIATES, LLP

Get the quality dental care you need... while you sleep

(713) 797-0846

6550 Fannin, #2103
Houston, TX 77030

(Located in the Texas Medical Center area, in Smith Tower)

www.houston-sedation-dentist.com

Dr. Patrick Flinn



Dr. Flinn has over 20 years of experience working with fearful, anxious patients. He provides all in-office sedation options and is certified to provide I.V. sedation. Dr. Flinn works with primary care physicians and other medical and dental specialists throughout the Houston area, whose patients have special needs because of dental fear, anxiety or phobia.

- Special care to manage dental fear, anxiety & dental phobia
- Sleep dentistry with IV sedation
- Oral sedation & nitrous oxide
- Full mouth restoration
- Implant dentistry
- Crowns & other restorations
- Beautiful smile makeovers with cosmetic dentistry
- Gentle periodontal therapy for gum health
- Dentures & partials
- Complete preventive care
- Most PPO insurance plans accepted & filed
- Financing available through Capital One & CareCredit

