First Course Description

Management of acute dental pain is accomplished through a clinical approach that successfully incorporates opioid and non-opioid analgesics. However, this normally occurs outside the dental office, away from our immediate supervision and we are often faced with the difficult task of managing patient pain while also avoiding adverse outcomes for both our patient and our communities. Thus, it is critical for clinicians to accurately identify the need for pain control and associated risks, and to assess the efficacy of analgesic agents to be administered. This program will provide an overview of effective dental pain management and identification of addiction. Special emphasis will also be given to appropriate practices of prescribing opioids and individualized patient care planning.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the pharmacology and mechanism of action of opioid and non-opioid analgesics.
2. Explain the intended role of opioid and nonopioid analgesics in the management of acute dental pain, as well as situations which may preclude their use, based on a patient's underlying medical conditions.
3. Describe techniques useful in developing individualized pain management plans as well as strategies useful in identifying potential opioid addiction.
4. Discuss appropriate prescribing practices for opioid and non-opioid analgesics to utilize in everyday clinical situations.

Second Course Description

The challenge faced by all clinicians today is to provide safe and effective dental treatment to our medically complex patients. However, dental professionals find themselves practicing in a marketplace awash in direct to consumer advertising of prescription drugs and in the midst of an explosion of new drug entities over the last several years. Thus, many dental professionals may find it challenging to stay up to date with the latest prescribing trends in disease state.

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management. This program will provide an overview of those frequently prescribed brand name medications whose actions, side effects, contraindications and potential drug interactions may have the greatest impact on dental therapy.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the most frequently prescribed FDA approved brand name medications for the treatment of systemic illnesses.
2. Discuss the basic mechanisms of action, potential adverse reactions, drug interactions and contraindications of these medications.
3. Explain the clinical dental considerations of these medications and their potential impact on dental therapy.
4. Describe patient management strategies essential for successful treatment planning and proper care of our medically complex dental patients.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Thomas Viola, the founder of “Pharmacology Declassified”, is a board-certified pharmacist who also serves the professions of dentistry as a clinical educator, professional speaker and published author. Tom is a member of the faculty of ten dental professional degree programs and has received several awards for outstanding teacher of the year. Tom has presented hundreds of continuing education courses to dental professionals, nationally and internationally, in the areas of oral pharmacology and local anesthesia and is well known for his regular contributions to several dental professional journals. Through his informative, humorous and engaging live seminars and webinars, Tom has earned his reputation as the go-to specialist for making pharmacology practical and useful for all members of the dental team.