Cannabis & Oral Health: What You Need to Know

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

According to the DEA, cannabis remains a Schedule 1 substance. As such, it is considered to have no accepted medical use and, thus, is illegal to possess. Yet, the United States has seen a broad-based trend toward state-level decriminalization of cannabis, with almost every state enacting legislation aimed at legitimizing and/or decriminalizing cannabis for medical and/or recreational use. Notwithstanding this rise in social and legal acceptance, public health concerns regarding the use of cannabis remain, especially among dental professionals, since the major routes of administration of cannabis involve the oral cavity. This program will introduce dental professionals to the most current information regarding the pharmacology of cannabis, including its various routes of administration and adverse effects. Special emphasis will be placed on the effects of cannabis use on oral health and dental treatment, as well as the proposed use of cannabis in dentistry for the management of patient anxiety and odontogenic pain.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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

- Discuss the basic concepts of neurophysiology and nerve conduction and the mechanism of action of local anesthetic agents.
- Differentiate between the two major classes of local anesthetic agents with respect to their distribution, metabolism, and excretion.
- Discuss the rationale for the use of vasoconstrictor agents in local anesthetic solutions and their potential effects on common organ system disease states.
- Specify the various local anesthetic combinations most commonly used in dentistry and the rationale for their use in specific clinical situations.
- Discuss the potential adverse effects, contraindications, and patient care considerations with the use of local anesthetics.

"The educational teaching methodology used in this course is live lecture presented in concert with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Both the live lecture and the PowerPoint presentation incorporate a variety of audio and visual cues to enhance audience member understanding and retention of key concepts. In addition, audience participation will be encouraged and facilitated by group discussions as well as questions and answers provided prior to the conclusion of each section of the live lecture."