

Results in Review

Newsletter for referring dental professionals



Blende Dental Group attends the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) Annual Conference

We recently attended the 24th annual Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) meeting which reviewed challenges to ensuring adequate access to dental care. Dr. Blende defines these challenges primarily as a lack of awareness on the part of both patients and their caregivers. Transportation issues, anxiety, and financial concerns are also barriers.

"We [the SCDA] continue to address hurdles to receiving adequate dental care, especially for special needs patients, but there is work to be done," says Dr. Blende. "Thirty percent of Americans don't have access to dental care for various reasons and that number rises to 50% for seniors and those with disabilities. The net health- and financial impact is enormous. Postponing care leads to emergency situations, unnecessary dental deterioration and results in increasing financial costs and health risks to patients. Most do not realize the connection between dental health and overall health and well-being, but when one regularly examines patients who postpone important work, the impact is quite apparent."

According to Dr. Blende, one of the most unfortunate barriers preventing patients from maintaining proper dental health is simply a lack of awareness that these programs and practices exist. We address this issue by spreading the word. Specifically, we partner with local and national organizations to raise awareness both within the health care community and among patients and their families. Today, over 60% of our referrals come from other dentists, physicians, care managers and social workers. These patients cannot be treated in a regular dental office setting due to their overarching medical, physical and ambulatory issues.

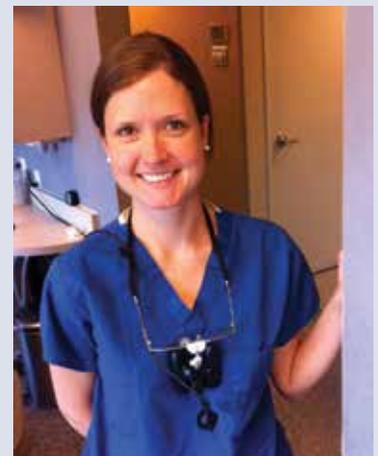
About the Blende Dental Group

The Blende Dental Group is Home of the House Call Dentists. We serve general patients and focus on individuals with special needs, including seniors, phobics and those with disabilities (behavioral, cognitive, medical or physical challenges). We are a medical-dental group with over 40 years combined experience. We address a diverse range of patients by individualizing our treatment, either Awake (in-office), Asleep (under general anesthesia at one of eight Bay Area hospitals where we are on staff), or At Home (in the patient's home within a 60-mile radius of San Francisco). The Blende Dental Group has earned its reputation as a national leader in the treatment of patients with special needs by safely and successfully completing thousands of complex cases. Our vision is to remove barriers to receiving dental care. Our mission is changing lives one smile at a time: Awake, Asleep, or At Home.

The Blende Dental Group is pleased to announce the arrival of our Chief Dental Director Caitlin Batchelor D.D.S., Special Care Dentistry

Dr. Caitlin Batchelor, a native Virginian, received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia, and earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S) from Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College. Dr. Batchelor discovered her passion for treating every individual, regardless of their unique challenges. She completed her two-year general practice dental residency at Wake Forest University Medical Center under the guidance of her director, Dr. Judith Messura, Past President of the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA). She treated hundreds of patients with a variety of physical, medical and cognitive disabilities. Her goal is to help patients achieve optimal oral health and a beautiful smile by providing outstanding dental care with a gentle, caring, individualized approach.

When we asked Dr. Batchelor about her personal reasons for choosing special care dentistry, a rare choice for many, she explained, "I am passionate about providing individually-tailored, excellent oral health care to everyone, especially those who otherwise would not have access to dental care. I believe each individual is different and deserves a plan for care that takes into consideration their unique qualities and health needs. Dental restorations can be beautiful as well as functional, and I approach each case with attention to detail in order to achieve the highest quality care." Dr. Batchelor adds that she cherishes the moment when her patients re-discover the beauty of their own smile after receiving care from an expert team.



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Batchelor to our practice.

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Case Study: Mindy

Fifty-five year-old Mindy Hebenstreit knew she had advanced dental problems requiring special care dentistry. Mindy presented to us with Rosenthal Factor 11 clotting deficiency (a bleeding disorder), an AVM (arteriovenous malformation) resulting in an aneurysm, a seizure in 2007, and migraine headaches. It was difficult for Mindy to find a dentist who *would or could* manage the risk of her complex medical conditions. As a result of this challenge and her own concern, Mindy also developed severe phobia of nearly all aspects of a visit to the dentist. This led to several years of avoiding dental treatment. Mindy traveled from Los Angeles to San Francisco to meet Dr. Blende and his team. She was thrilled to find a dentist who could treat her safely and comfortably while asleep. The first phase of Mindy's treatment was accomplished in the operating room at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), where her significant periodontal disease and dental caries were treated. During this first phase in the operating room, ten teeth were extracted and grafted with bone material (by oral maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. Dennis Song MD, DDS). Twenty one teeth were prepared for crowns. During this procedure, three units of plasma were infused to Mindy, and antibiotics were given intravenously to prevent infection. At the conclusion of the first day of treatment, Mindy left the operating room with provisional crowns and provisional bridges, immediately improving her smile and protecting her teeth until stronger, laboratory-made provisional crowns and bridges could be placed. She stayed overnight at CPMC, where she received more plasma and antibiotics to protect her fragile condition. Several weeks later, Mindy returned to the Blende Dental Groups' office for finalization of lab processed crowns and bridges while awake. Three months later, the final phase of her treatment involved a visit with Dr. Blende, where her porcelain crowns and bridges were cemented in place, to achieve Mindy's gorgeous smile. She is now free of decay and infection with a smile as stunning as she is.



Dental/Medical Team:

David M. Blende, DDS
Dennis Song, MD, DDS
Dental Concepts Laboratory
Leland Green, MD (Hematologist)
Daniel Rovner, MD (Neurologist)



Treatment Summary:

10 extractions; 21 crowns (e.max, zirconia, porcelain),
4 Quads of root planning,
4 Quads of crown lengthening



SAVE-THE-DATE: Alzheimer's and Oral Health (September 18, 2012)

The Blende Dental Group invites you to join us for an educational cocktail event, Tuesday, September 18, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at 390 Laurel Street, Suite 310 (cross street Sacramento), Presidio Heights in San Francisco. Due to limited space, please RSVP: community@drblende.com or (415) 563-4261.

Dr. Blende, and our guest speaker, will be giving a 15-minute presentation on optimizing dental health among those with Alzheimer's and other senior health issues. Specifically, the challenge of detecting oral health issues and the significance of their impact on the final years of life. The discussion will include specific tools and techniques to address these issues.

We will be serving wines, tea coolers, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, all crafted by community members. We hope you can make it.

Autism and Oral Health

We recently hosted an Autism and Oral Health event for the community in our office on Laurel Street in San Francisco. The event included presentations by Dr. David Blende, Emmylou Santos, M.S., BCBA, a Behavioral Analyst of Ages Learning Solutions, in addition to Michelle Bernardo, a Registered Dentist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) who partners with The Blende Dental Group for House Calls. These professionals shared their insights into optimizing the dental health of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. They covered both techniques and tools to improve daily oral hygiene, as well as a clinical perspectives on oral health issues that arise in this group.

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We welcome your referrals. Please call (800) 575-3375