The Joy of Treating Children

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It never fails to amaze me how many dentists’ opinions of treating children are so far removed from the reality. In fact, treating children in a dental office can not only be a tremendous joy, it can also be financially rewarding and provide a means of building a practice in several ways.

Much depends on the attitude of the dentist since he or she will set the tone for the practice’s philosophy toward pediatric patients. If the doctor has a positive attitude, the employees will follow. Once the assistants, hygienists and front-office personnel realize that pediatric patients are potentially a most enjoyable aspect of the daily schedule, things will move toward providing excellent care for the young client. Parents will express gratitude for your skills in ways that you have never expected and will gladly bring other family members to your practice. What’s more, they will also tell their friends (who also have children) that they have found a dental practice where their children receive treatment from a caring staff. The caring staff is the key.

It is vital to know some tricks of the trade, but if a positive attitude of the dentist is not established as an office philosophy, there is no way for “cute” terminology, reasonable treatment planning, judicious sedation or distraction techniques to overcome any negative assumptions that “children are a problem.”

First Herb-Based Cancer Cure

By Robin Goodman

A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB) in Calcutta has made a serendipitous discovery of a molecule that could become the first herb-based cure for Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), which is a severe type of blood cancer. The molecule, called chlorogenic acid, appears to target and kill leukemia cells. During immuno-modulatory studies on betel leaf and its effect on human cell lines, the team found that chlorogenic acid induced programmed cell death in human cancer cells transplanted in experimental nude mice, explained team leader and immunologist Santu Bandyopadhaya. The molecule, which is extracted from the leaves of Piper betle (Piper Betel) showed no deleterious effects on the growth of non-cancerous cells.

Currently there is only one drug available around the world for the treatment of CML, but its high cost prohibits widespread use. A new drug made from chlorogenic acid would prove to be a much cheaper option due to the wide availability of betel leaf.

The team has subsequently applied for global and U.S. patents on the molecule, which was referred to as icb-101 during their interim. Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has given verbal permission so that multi-centre human trials can begin immediately. Funding for the project was provided by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).