

Hammerlee Dental Care Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

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excellence in a comfortable setting



On Our Website You Can:

- Check your scheduled appointments or make an appointment request
- Complete necessary forms
- Refer a friend
- Learn about our staff and services
- Access a wealth of dental health information
- Read our previous newsletters
- Provide valuable feedback and contact us

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News Updates

Our team is growing here at Hammerlee Dental Care! We are proud to have a new staff member. Her name is Tammy Caldwell and you can read more about her below.

Things have been busy here at our office, and we have decided to extend our Thursday hours. Beginning in March, we will now see patients until 6pm on Thursdays.

A couple of weeks ago, the doctors and staff attended the Erie County Dental Association's Staff Appreciation Night at Junior's Last Laugh. Everyone had a fantastic time and the staff would like to give Drs. Bill and Adam a big THANK YOU for a great

night out and appreciation.

Our hygienist, Linda, recently became a member of The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network. Her region en-



Dr. Adam, Dr. Bill, Stacie and Jody at the ECDA Staff Appreciation Night

compasses 14 states and US territories and is affiliated with the University of Rochester Medical Center and the group's objective is to conduct dental prac-

tice based research studies on a wide variety of topics and to serve dental professional and their patients through education and collegiality. Linda has completed her study and testing on the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research and is now ready to move forward with the next available research project.

Linda recently had the opportunity to test an equipment prototype for Young Dental. She was given a dental handpiece, that is in the development stages to try and evaluate. Her feedback will be provided to the company in March for them to use to finalize the equipment design.

Meet Our Newest Hammerlee Dental Care Team Member!

Hammerlee Dental Care is proud to welcome our newest team member, Tammy Caldwell. Tammy comes to us with over 25 years of experience in dentistry.

Tammy is originally from Union City, but she and her husband now reside in Erie. They have two grown children.

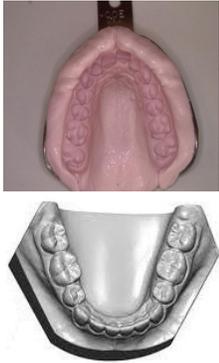
Tammy likes to read and crochet, and she and her husband are just embarking on their new bicycling hobby.

Tammy will be a business manager alongside Jody, and she looks forward to meeting you at your next visit with us.

Welcome aboard Tammy!



Tammy Caldwell
Hammerlee Dental Care
Business Manager



Alginate Impression (top) and study model (bottom)

Service Spotlight: Alginate Impressions & Study Models

Dental impressions are necessary for a multitude of reasons such as making dentures, partials, orthodontic models, mouthguards, whitening trays and more. Impressions are imprints of the teeth and/or soft tissues, and this type is formed with a specific material called alginate.

To take an this type of impression, we mix the powdered alginate material with a particular amount of water to create a “sol”. This putty-like sol is then placed into an impression tray that has been pre-selected based on the

size of the patient’s mouth. The tray is then seated in either the upper or lower arch and is allowed to harden, or “set”, which usually takes between 90 and 120 seconds. The tray is then removed in one quick motion and the impression is complete.

Once the impression is taken, stone diagnostic casts can be made and they are called study models. Study models are essentially stone replicas of a person’s teeth and surrounding tissues.

Study models are then created from the impression. We take a powdered form of

gypsum and mix it with water, pour it into the impression and allow it to harden. The impression is then separated from the plaster cast and the cast is trimmed and ready for use.

The study models are a very valuable diagnostic tool for Dr. Hammerlee. They allow us to evaluate the dentition and supporting structures from various angles and without the patient present. Alginate impressions and the resulting study models are also important for assessing “articulation”, or how the teeth come together.

“Removal may be recommended if they are causing any problems or if the potential for problems is apparent.”

Children’s Dental Health: Natal Teeth

Have you ever heard of an infant being born with a tooth already present? It does happen on occasion and we call these teeth “natal teeth”. These little surprises occur in roughly 1 in every 2,000—3,000 births.

Sometimes natal teeth are confused with “neo-natal teeth” which refer to teeth that erupt in a newborns mouth within 30 days of birth.

Natal teeth usually are loose

and this is typically because their root, which anchors tooth into bone, has not developed.

Once natal teeth are diagnosed, the decision needs to be made whether or not to do anything about them. This is usually a coordinated decision between the parents, the neonatologist, the pediatrician and the dentist.

Removal may be recommended if they are causing any problems or if the poten-

tial for problems is apparent. The issues that natal teeth can cause include:

- Discomfort to the infant’s oral tissues,
- Interference with breastfeeding,
- The potential for the tooth to fall out on its own and be swallowed or aspirated.

It is important to remember that it is more risky to operate on a newborn baby than on a baby of a few months.



Michael Bishop

Feature Patient: Michael Bishop

Mike Bishop grew up in Greensburg, PA. He met his wife Maureen while they were at Gannon University. They have two children, Michael and Maeve. Michael is a freshman at Cathedral Prep and Maeve is a sixth grader at Saint George School. Mike has lived in Erie with his family for the last 18 years.

Mike is a Charter Financial Analyst and President of

Bishop & Company Investment Management, LLC. He started his firm five years ago with his wife. The firm provides investment management guidance to individuals, endowments and corporate retirement plans.

Mike met Dr. Hammerlee 17 years ago, through a referral from an Oral Surgeon acquaintance here in Erie. “For over the past 17 years, Dr. Hammerlee and

his staff have taken excellent care of my family. We are very appreciative for Dr.’s early efforts to ease our children’s concerns of going to the dentist, which quickly removed any fears they had.”

Mike and his family enjoy traveling, cross country skiing and biking. They are also very involved in their church community.



Did You Know ...

... that Jody has two dogs, Bella and Chloe? Bella and Chloe are sisters! They are not from the same litter, but are from the same parents. "The girls" are one year apart.

They're Havapooos, which are a cross between a Havanese and a Poodle. Havapooos are famous for being tiny, ever-affectionate dogs that are fun and even-tempered. Jody will tell you they're also very intelligent and are wonderful lap dogs.

Bella was Jody's first Havapoo and she is 4 years old. Bella joined Jody's family as her three children were leaving the nest, and Jody calls Bella her replacement child. Jody will be the first to admit she is completely spoiled!

Bella and Chloe are definitely full members of the family and they love to play together. Bella is more the homebody, preferring to be inside and Chloe is more the out-

doors type.

Bella loves to play with her favorite tennis balls for hours and Chloe's favorite activity is chasing bubbles. Jody even got a bubble machine for both of the dogs to enjoy outside in the good weather.

Bella and Chloe can be seen out and about with Jody often. Look for them when they're going for walks in the neighborhood or out enjoying driving in the car with "mom"!



Bella (back) and Chloe (front)

Prevention is the Key: Why looking after your teeth prevents deadly blood clots

Regular flossing helps prevent the build up of Streptococcus bacteria that can be harmful if they enter the blood stream

Brushing your teeth and flossing may be a chore, but it could just save your life, according to a new study.

Although gum disease has long been suspected of causing heart problems, scientists have long been puzzled as to how this happens.

Now researchers from the University of Bristol say that a self-defense mechanism of microbes in the mouth are to blame.

When the bacteria enters the blood stream through bleeding gums they deploy a protein that forces platelets to bind together and shield the bugs with clots.

Study leader Professor Howard Jenkinson, said: 'When the platelets clump together they completely encase the bacteria.

'This provides a protective cover not only from the im-

mune system, but also from antibiotics that might be used to treat infection.

'Unfortunately, as well as helping out the bacteria, platelet clumping can cause small blood clots, growths on the heart valves, or inflammation of blood vessels that can block the blood supply to the heart and brain.'

Speaking at the Society for General Microbiology's autumn meeting in Nottingham, Prof Jenkinson said oral bacteria can 'wreak havoc' if not kept in check by regular brushing and flossing.

'Poor dental hygiene can lead to bleeding gums, providing bacteria with an escape route into the bloodstream, where they can initiate blood clots leading to heart disease,' he said.

The Streptococcus bacteria normally live in confined communities in the mouth called biofilms. It is these that are responsible for dental plaque and gum disease.

The bugs become far more potentially harmful once they

break free of the mouth and enter the blood circulation.

'People need to be aware that as well as keeping a check on their diet, blood pressure, cholesterol and fitness levels, they also need to maintain good dental hygiene to minimize their risk of heart problems,' said Prof Jenkinson.

The team is using a new blood flow model developed by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland that mimics conditions in the human circulatory system.

The scientists are investigating how the platelet-activating behavior of Streptococcus bacteria can be blocked.

'This could eventually lead to new treatments for cardiovascular disease, which is the biggest killer in the developed world,' said Prof Jenkinson. †

† Reprinted from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1309391/Why-looking-teeth-prevent-deadly-blood-clots.html>
Accessed on February 26, 2013

"Brushing your teeth and flossing may be a chore, but it could just save your life, according to a new study."



Preventing blood clots is always a better option than treating them

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Dr. William Hammerlee

Dr. William Hammerlee has been a dentist in Erie, PA since 1984. Raised in Corry, Pennsylvania he is a graduate of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky and The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Hammerlee is a member of the American Dental Association, the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the Erie County Dental Association, and a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Adam Hammerlee grew up in Erie and is also a graduate of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky and The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a member of the American Dental Association, the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the Erie County Dental Association, and the Academy of General Dentistry.

To opt-out of e-mail correspondence, please send an e-mail with your preferences to: jody@hammerleedentalcare.com

The contents of this newsletter are for informational purposes only. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your dentist or physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have.

Q & A: How is your office prepared for medical emergencies?



Our office is equipped with an AED (above) and medical emergency kit (below)

Here at Hammerlee Dental Care we take medical emergency preparedness and the care of our patients very seriously.

All of our licensed health care providers are certified in healthcare-grade CPR and trained on Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use.

Our office is equipped with oxygen in the doctor's treatment rooms and

a mobile oxygen tank is readily available as well. We maintain a full emergency medicine kit that contains pharmaceuticals for a variety of circumstances. Additionally, we have our own AED on site and vital sign monitoring equipment.

All of our team members have been trained on and practiced our medical emergency competency

plan. We have a full complement of medications and equipment and are prepared to deal with the unlikely event of a medical emergency occurring on the premises.

For more information about this topic and other dental information, please visit our website and click the "Dental Health Online" link. If you have a question about our office that you would like to see featured in our Q&A section, please e-mail it to: linda@hammerleedentalcare.com