Treating Between the Lines: Understanding Rx and Illicit Drug Misuse

Substance use is at an all-time "high" in this country with an estimated 1 out of every 6 Americans with a substance use disorder.

As dental professionals, we must awaken to the reality that many of our patients have substance-use disorders and that our examination findings of advanced caries, severe hyposalivation, and poor plaque control are often the effects of depressant, stimulant, and opioid misuse.

Learn how to recognize the clues of substance misuse from a routine dental examination, discuss your concerns and suspicions with patients, and use evidence-based practices for dental pain management.

**Note: Course content does not include marijuana*

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BRIDGING CONNECTIONS · BUILDING UNDERSTANDING

Participants will learn:

- How to identify the three categories of drugs (opioids, depressants, and stimulants) most misused by patients
- How to recognize the physical, behavioral, and oral clues of substance misuse during a routine dental examination
- How to discuss substance misuse with patients using motivational-interviewing techniques
- Office policies that safeguard both patients and practices
- Evidence-based practices for managing dental pain

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:
Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants, Front/Back Office Team Members

SUGGESTED FORMAT:
Partial Day, Lecture, Webinar