

Dentists and Orofacial Pain: CBCT to the Rescue!

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Orofacial pain presents the dentist with one of the most common problems encountered in the dental office. While dentists are expert at the diagnosis and management of acute of Paul Bolan periodontal origins, other sources of pain like those from headache, sinus problems, neuralgias, and temporomandibular joint disorders can be much more confusing. Nevertheless, the patient expects the dentist to be an expert in all of these areas, and to diagnose and manage their pain complaints.

This course presents a simple, rationale diagnostic approach to help the clinician develop a reasonable differential diagnosis for their patients' pain symptoms. Examples of cases where the referring clinician failed to recognize important features of the painful condition which delayed treatment of a serious problem - some of which could have led to litigation - will be presented, to illustrate the importance of a proper diagnostic work-up. The valuable contribution of cone beam 3-D imaging to the evaluation of the patient's pain complaint will be presented

Upon completion of this program the dentist will:

- Understand the valuable role that cone beam imaging plays in diagnosing headache, TMJ and sinus pain
- Be able to categorize a pain problem more precisely to prescribe treatment
- Understand common causes of orofacial pain and headache and differentiate them from pain of odontogenic origin