AN UPDATE ON LOCAL ANAESTHESIA: WHAT'S NEW? WHAT'S DIFFERENT? WHAT'S NEW? WHAT'S DIFFERENT? WHAT WORKS?

#### SESSION OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

- Dentists are gadget people. Patients are often afraid of "getting a needle".
  - So, dentists look for ways to make the administration of local anaesthetic less bad.
- New ideas for local anaesthetic agents.
- New ideas for local anaesthetic devices.
- New ideas for local anaesthetic techniques.
- Reviews of these new ideas.

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#### **CH-CH-CHANGES**

- Change is constant. Change is hard.
- Changes in dentistry come when the benefits are attractive, undeniably beneficial, and cost effective, or...
  - Because it's a shiny, new thing

## CH-CH-CHANGES

- The pace of change matters
   Too fast is unacceptable
- The business concept of "Pace Layers" was introduced by Stewart Brand in 1999 then popularized by Paul Saffo



• Some new ideas aren't new at all (e.g., OraVerse, digital scanners)

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- Biopsychosocial Theory (1977) Melzack's Neuromatrix Theory (2001)

Ref.: M Moayedi and KD Davis, J Neurophysiol, 109: 5–12, 2013; LA Trachsel et al., StatPearls [Internet], April 2023

# THE GOAL OF LOCAL ANAESTHESIA

 Bathe the trigeminal branch nerve(s) in local anaesthetic solution(s) to allow us to work painlessly and in a relatively blood-free zone.





# THE GATE CONTROL THEORY OF PAIN

- A peripheral stimulus travels through three locations in the spinal cord before getting to the brain
- One location, the substantia gelatinosa, modulates the signals getting through
  - Acts as a "gate"
- Gates can be opened or closed
   Thought to be affected by cognitive and emotional states









#### KOVANAZE™

- Composed of 3% tetracaine (ester) and 0.05% oxymetazoline
- Administered with two 0.2 mL sprays four to five minutes apart in the ipsilateral nostril where the work is to be done
  - One additional spray can be given
  - Each spray contains 5.27 mg of tetracaine and 0.088 mg of oxymetazoline



## KOVANASE™

- Capetillo *et al.* (2019) compared Kovanase<sup>™</sup> to lidocaine
   Electric pulp testing showed a success rate of 22%-37% with Kovanase<sup>™</sup> vs. 89%-91% with lidocaine
  - Before administration, patients preferred the nasal spray (56% vs. 44%)
     After administration, patients preferred the injections (100%)

Ref.: Capetillo et al., JOE, 45(3):257-262, 2019





## LASER ANAESTHESIA

#### Mechanism of action

- Blockage of interdental nerve conduction
- Dependent upon intensity and total laser energy delivered to the pulpal area
- Attractive because there is no injection, no injectionrelated anxiety, and no regional numbness

# LASER ANAESTHESIA

- Chan *et al.* carried out a randomized clinical trial to test if a pulsed Nd:YAG laser could reliably induce pulpal analgesia
  - Study involved 44 people (aged 14-18 years) and compared EMLA to laser Results showed that the laser could induce pulpal analgesia in maxillary and mandibular premolars
- More effective in single-rooted teeth than double-rooted teeth Nd:YAG lasers otherwise useful for soft tissue procedures
  - Ref.: JDR, 2012 July 1, vol. 91 (7) suppl. \$79-\$84

#### LASER ANAESTHESIA

- Two types of dental lasers can operate on hard and soft tissues
  - Erbium family that operates from 2900 to 3000 nm
- Isotropic CO<sub>2</sub> that operates at 9300 nm
- Kotlow reports that the Solea (Convergent Dental) isotopic CO<sub>2</sub> restorative laser at 9300 nm can produce reliable regional anaesthesia
- The effects last long enough to use a conventional handpiece to finish or modify the cavity preparation
   Ref. Kotow, Denistry Today, Sept. 2015

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#### LASER ANAESTHESIA

- "Laser analgesia is a non-invasive, non-destructive, and nonthermal bio-modulating technique with the ability to reduce or suppress painful sensations..."
- Possible mechanisms:
  - Photo-acoustic effect within the gate control theory
  - Direct and indirect influences of laser energy on nerves and nociceptors
- Modifications of the Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> pump systems
- Bio-resonance and biochemical modifications induced by laser energy
  - Ref.: R Poli et al., Dentistry Journal, 8: 128, doi:10.3390/dj8040128, 2020

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# LASER ANAESTHESIA

- Predictable analgesic results (for restorative dentistry) may be achievable using erbium family lasers and one of two protocols
  - The "rabbit" or "hare" technique
  - High (ablative) energy used at the beginning of treatment with the handpiece 6-10 mm from the target (i.e., the CEJ) for up to 2 minutes
  - Tip is moved to 0.5-1 mm from the occlusal surface, then ablation starts

Ref.: R Poli et al., Dentistry Journal, 8: 128, doi:10.3390/dj8040128, 2020

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# LASER ANAESTHESIA

 Predictable analgesic results (for restorative dentistry) may be achievable using erbium family lasers and one of two protocols

The "turtle" or "tortoise" technique

- Initial energy and power settings are low
- Then the tip is placed at the ablative surface and the energy is increased

Ref.: R Poli et al., Dentistry Journal, 8: 128, doi:10.3390/dj8040128, 2020

## LASER ANAESTHESIA

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- No consistent protocols have been established yet
   Therefore, highly technique sensitive
- Pain is a multifactorial phenomenon
- Safe but not consistently effective



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BUFFERED LOCAL ANAESTHETICS
The theory is that increasing the pH of the LA solution will result in a more comfortable, faster-onset injection
Mixes 8.4% sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>) into the LA cartridge
Solution pH of lidocaine goes to 7.35
Only approved for use with lidocaine currently

 Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) also produced at the time of mixing, which may have numbing properties



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#### CLAD FEATURES

- Slow injection speeds
- Auditory signals

S Be

Automatic pressure adjustments to maintain steady flows

endero et al., Clinical Oral Investigations, August 2020 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00784-020-03553-5

- Less pain on injection
  - Literature supports this position consistently
    - See: recent article by Berrendero et al. (2020)

# CLAD FEATURES

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- Review article by de França *et al.* (2021) observed reduced pain and anxiety scores for the use of CLAD vs. conventional techniques
  - Also noted that conventional techniques are widely used, safe, and effective
- CLAD units are expensive and not distinctly advantageous over conventional techniques

De França et al., JOMS, 2021 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joms.2021.11.018









- Full cartridge in 6+ minutes
  RapidFlo = 1 mL per 35 seconds
- Full cartridge in 63 seconds
- TurboFlo = 1 mL per 17 seconds
  Full cartridge in 30 seconds



# CALAJECT™

- Introduced in 2021
- Distributed in Canada by Synca
   Made by Rønvig in Denmark
- Uses standard dental needles
- Three injection programs
- I Palatal or PDL injections
- II Infiltration/Paraperiosteal injections
- III Nerve blocks

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- Fast phase = 0.03 mL per second
  - 1 mL in 33 seconds

# INJECTION SPEEDS FOR THE CALAJECT™ • III – Nerve block program Slow phase = 0.006 mL per second • Fast phase = 0.04 mL per second

• 1 mL in 25 seconds

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• Full cartridge in 45 seconds























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- A non-selective  $\alpha$ -adrenergic antagonist
  - Increases the redistribution of local anaesthetics away from injection site
     Approved as a systemic antihypertensive drug in 1953

# PHENTOLAMINE MESYLATE

- Local anaesthetic reversal agent for adults and children
   Safe and effective for patients ≥ 6 years and ≥15 kg
  - OraVerse<sup>™</sup> (Septodont) launched for dentistry in 2009
- 2003 report by Rafique *et al.* (Caries Research, 37: 360-364) noted that 86% of patients receiving LA had moderate dislike of postoperative numbness
   14% report high dilike
  - 14% report high dislike

#### PHENTOLAMINE MESYLATE

- Reduces duration of anaesthesia by 50%
- Non-toxic and well-tolerated in children as young as 4 years of age
  - Only observed significant adverse effects were a minor increase in postoperative pain shortly after return to normal sensation, and moderate at the injection site
    - Ref.: Hersh et al., JADA, 139: 1080-1093 (2008)
    - Ref.: Tavares et al., JADA, 139: 1095-1104 (2008)

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#### PHENTOLAMINE MESYLATE

- Administered via standard dental cartridge in a 1:1 volume dose ratio to local anaesthetic
  - \$9 per cartridge (March 2024)
  - LA cartridges are ~\$2 per cartridge

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- Bilateral mandibular work requiring local anaesthesia
  Paediatric patients
- Developmentally disabled patients







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#### **EXPAREL**<sup>•</sup>

- A 1.33% bupivacaine suspension
- Maximum recommended dose for adults = 266 mg
   Maximum use in dentistry is 133 mg (10 mL)
  - Not based on patient weight
- Can be mixed with non-liposomal bupivacaine for faster onset
   Maximum HCI:Exparel ratio of 1:2
  - Should not be mixed with other local anaesthetics

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#### **EXPAREL®**

- First peak effect is at the time of injection
   Second peak effect is 12 hours later
- Recommended: No additional administration of bupivacaine in the same site for 96 hours
- Half-life (t<sub>12</sub>) is 24-34 hours, depending on the dose and the site of administration

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# EXPAREL\* Provides up to 96 hours of pain-relief Seen as a way to reduce or avoid opioid prescription and use The first 48-72 hours after surgery represents the greatest consumption of analgesics More study needed for dental uses

Ref.: Hersh et al., Curr Oral Health Reports, 4: 189-196, 2017



# LEVOBUPIVACAINE

- Clinically similar to bupivacaine
- Less affinity for myocardium and CNS centres
   Less toxic
- No dental preparations yet

# ROPIVACAINE

- Introduced in 1996
- A long-acting amide local anaesthetic
  - Clinically similar to bupivacaine
  - Not as lipid soluble
- Most often used for epidurals
   No dental application yet

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## CENTBUCRIDINE

- A quinolone derivative developed in 1983 (India)
   Not an amide, not an ester
   Has local anaesthetic, antihistaminic, and vasoconstrictive properties
- Comparative study with lidocaine by Dugal et al. (2009) showed good efficacy for "routine minor surgery cases" at 0.5%
- Avoids the need for vasoconstrictor
- Not available for dental use at this time

Ref.: Dugal et al., J Maxillofac Oral Surg., 8(3): 221–223, 2009



- Introduced in Canada in 1982. Introduced in the US in 2000.
   An amide local anaesthetic with a sulfur atom in its aromatic ring
   <u>More lipid soluble</u> than other amide local anaesthetics
- Metabolized more quickly than other amide local anaesthetics
- Can cause methemoglobinemia with large doses
- Supplied in 4% solutions
- With 1:100,000 or 1:200,000 epinephrine
   More commonly associated with paraesthesias than other local anaesthetics\*





TLC590 • Liposomal ropivacaine Operates similarly to Exparel with fewer toxicity concerns Not approved for human use yet



#### CAPSAICIN

- Initial algesia can be avoided by administering local anaesthetic first
- Potential uses:
  - Intraoperative local anaesthesia(?)
  - Post-operative analgesia

MIXOLOGY

- Future advances may include agent mixtures
- Clonidine = alpha-2 receptor agonist
- It can inhibit action potentials
- It can increase the duration of anaesthesia and analgesia when mixed with local anaesthetics
- Dexamethasone = corticosteroid
- Inhibits action potentials in C-fibres
- Demonstrated to prolong (non-dental) blocks using bupivacaine and mepivacaine

Ref.: EA Shipton, Anesthesiology Research and Practice, Article ID 546409, 2012