



NYCOMS NEWS

The New York Center for Orthognathic and Maxillofacial Surgery

Volume 3, Issue 3

Fall 2003

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NYCOMS SWIMS WITH THE DOLPHINS

After years of using California based Orthognathic Treatment Planning as our digital video imaging program, we have switched to Dolphin Imaging. Not only is this system more versatile and accurate, the digital results are outstanding. Once the system is in place we will be contacting you about direct access to your patients work-up and imaging.

DR. SCHWARTZ WITHOUT BORDERS

Dr. Michael H. Schwartz flew to Guatemala in May 2003 as part of the Glen Falls Medical Mission to help the indigent population with their medical needs. He spent 5 days in Nueva Santa Rosa performing dental extractions on infants, children, adults, and seniors. Due to their impoverished state, many of the patients he saw could not afford proper dental care, thus they were in desperate need of his treatment. Even though working in 90 to 100 degree weather with 100% humidity was not a conducive working environment, the toughest part of the journey was being away from his wife and two young daughters. Grateful for his experience and the ability to help people, Dr. Schwartz would like to go back to Guatemala next May 2004. If you would like more information or would like to consider volunteering for the Glen Falls Medical Mission, please visit their website at <http://www.gfmmf.org> for more information.

DR. DREW SPREADS THE WORD ON NYCOMS DISTRACTION PROTOCOL

Dr. Stephanie J. Drew was invited to speak last spring in Chicago about the work NYCOMS is doing on using Distraction Osteogenesis to help treat obstructive sleep apnea patients. The population from infancy to young teen hood can benefit from this procedure if the skeletal deficiency is excessive. In the adult patient population, standard orthognathic surgical procedures have been our work horse, however, just as in the children, if the skeletal deficiency is so large that the movements would be unstable, distraction osteogenesis could be considered. Dr. Drew demonstrated how incremental distraction could be treated to clinical airway improvement. She further illustrated the role of definitive orthognathic surgery for patients who had completed growth. Emphasizing the principle that each treatment plan requires individualized attention. For example an adult with a major skeletal anomaly obscuring the airway may require combined orthognathic surgery and distraction osteogenesis. Getting out to talk to other teams dealing with these difficult problems is a special opportunity. Indeed, Dr. Drew is our distracting diplomat! If you would like further information on this topic please contact Dr. Drew at drdrew@nycoms.com.

CLINICAL UP-DATE: SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH "TMJ"

Fortunately most patients with chronic pain from "TMJ" or better named *Tempomandibular Disorder* are not surgical candidates. Often occlusal splints, muscle relaxants, physical therapy, stress management, and improved dental care can solve the problem. However, when the patient requires surgical intervention, the NYCOMS team headed by Dr. Michael Schwartz, stand ready to offer a wide range of treatment options. Diagnosis is the key to successful treatment while clinical examination, careful history taking and panoramic or TMJ radiographs are first line. Often a MRI is necessary to visualize the soft tissues of the joint and ascertain if the disc (meniscus) is displaced or damaged. Once an internal disarrangement is confirmed, various options are available ranging from:

- (1.) Splint Therapy
- (2.) TMJ Arthroscopy
- (3.) Lysis and Lavage
- (4.) Arthroscopic Surgery
- (5.) Open Joint Surgery

On rare occasions, the joint is so arthritic that it requires replacement. Rib grafts or various mechanical joints are available. When the patient is young, it is preferable to construct the joint from their own tissues. At times, this can be done with a minimally invasive surgical approach. There will come a day when a new joint will be grown by the patient's cells outside of the body - exciting information.

Staff News

We would like to welcome **Patricia L. Smith**, our new administrator who joined the **NYCOMS** team in June 2003. She comes to us with extensive medical practice management skills which included managing numerous types of medical facilities. Her educational background includes an MBA along with an undergraduate concentration in Healthcare Administration. She is certainly applying theory to practice here at **NYCOMS!**

We would also like to welcome our summer interns Diane Liebman and Steven Muniz. Diane is a junior at Yeshiva University majoring in Biology and would someday like to be an orthodontist. We'd like to believe that treating her as our patient had some influence with that decision! Her projects include treatment planning on the computer and x-ray tracing as well as other exciting projects. Steven is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in digital media design. He is responsible for documenting surgical procedures and converting patient files in our new Dolphin Software.

Attention Doctors

In an effort to conserve and be kinder to the environment, we are attempting to send news alerts via e-mail. Please send your e-mail address to Jessica via e-mail jjoseph@nycoms.com. Thank-you.

**Please visit our website at
www.nycoms.com.**

Upcoming NYCOMS Events

Dr. Neugarten will be hosting his second **Long Island Total Treatment Seminar** at Westbury Manor on October 22, 2003. Designed to educate clinicians about the advancements in the dental implant field, these study clubs are an instrumental tool for those who attend to find the latest information and speak to their colleagues. For more information contact Dr. Neugarten at drneugarten@nycoms.com.

Fall 2003 Round Table

If you are a patient who is planning to have surgery this fall or winter, please let the front desk know if you are interested in attending the Fall 2003 Round Table Discussion. **What is the Round Table?** This is a pre-surgical discussion with our patients and those involved in their surgery, such as an anesthesiologist, nurses on the recovery floor, operating room nurses, and a nutritionist. Please ask Sandra Parker, Surgical Coordinator, or Patricia L. Smith, the Office Administrator, for more information. The Fall Round Table discussion is scheduled for **Fall 2003**. It will take place at Long Island Jewish Hospital in the Board Room - Room 202. Patients with upcoming surgery dates will be notified with invitations. *Please note, patients who have not yet scheduled a date, but are considering having surgery are invited to join us at this informative event.*

\$\$ The Financial Corner \$\$

Dana –Jeanne Downer
Karen Zacharevitz
Financial Administrators

Obtaining a Pre-determination for Surgery

The process of obtaining a pre-determination for surgery is not easy. As the patient gets closer to his/her surgery date, a package of clinical information is sent to his/her insurance company for medical review. This package includes the following items:

1. A letter of medical necessity (why the surgery is necessary)
2. Radiographs (x-rays)
3. Tracings of the patient's facial structure for both before and after surgery
4. Images produced from our video imaging computer program to show the planned outcome of the surgery
5. Plaster models of the patient's current bite.

A medical review board analyzes the case. The medical director then makes the decision as to whether or not the proposed surgery is (1) medically necessary, and (2) covered by the patient's particular policy. If it is approved, an authorization number is given for the case. This pre-determination is only to let the patient know that the procedure is covered. Regarding the actual payment the insurance company will pay, is up to the company itself.

REMEMBER:

The insurance company works for **YOU**, the patient, and ***not*** the doctors who are taking care of you. Know your rights and responsibilities by carefully reviewing your policy. We are here to help and guide you, but protect yourself by staying aware of any changes and updates in your insurance policy.

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FROM OUR PATIENTS' POINT OF VIEW:

Topic: **How having corrective jaw surgery affected my life.**

By: _____

Although hesitant at first, my decision to undergo orthognathic surgery was the best decision I have ever made.

Website (<http://clubs.com/clubs/orthognathicsurgerysupport?s>)

If you are interested in submitting an essay about your experience for our newsletter, please send it to our office:
2001 Marcus Avenue, Suite N-10, Lake Success, NY 11042, and ATTENTION: Kelly Morgano
(All entries must be received no later than Monday, August __, 2002, to be considered for the fall issue)

The topic for our next issue is: **Why dental implants were the right choice for me.**

NYCOMS EMAIL CHAT ROOM

We are in the process of setting up a "chat room" on the internet for patients who are interested in having jaw surgery. This will allow pre-surgical candidates to communicate with our post-surgical patients. We anticipate this site to be up and running this spring. If you are interested in participating, please email Kelly Morgano at ktmorgano@nycoms.com, with your email address and date of your surgery.

If you are interested in submitting an essay about your surgical experience for our newsletter, please send it to our office:

***2001 Marcus Avenue, Suite N-10,
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ATTENTION: Kelly Morgano***

***Please note: All entries must be received no later than
Monday, September 16th, 2002, to be considered for the fall 2002 issue.***