

Caries Management by Risk Assessment

— A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE

DOUGLAS A. YOUNG, DDS, MS, MBA; JOHN D.B. FEATHERSTONE, MSC, PHD; AND JON R. ROTH, MS, CAE

GUEST EDITORS

Douglas A. Young, DDS, MS, MBA, is associate professor in the Department of Dental Practice at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A Dugoni School of Dentistry, in San Francisco.

John D.B. Featherstone, MSC, PHD, is interim dean, University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry, and is a professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences at UCSF.

Jon R. Roth, MS, CAE, is executive director of the California Dental Association Foundation.

In February and March 2003, two issues of the *Journal of the California Dental Association* were dedicated to reviewing the scientific basis for the most current approach to caries management using risk assessment protocols for diagnosis, treatment and prevention, including nonsurgical means for repairing — or remineralizing — tooth structure. The science behind Caries Management by Risk Assessment, CAMBRA, introduced in these *Journals* culminated with a consensus statement of national experts and the production of risk assessment forms for clinicians to use in practice. The California Dental Association, through the CDA Foundation, makes these *Journals* available to the public at www.cdafoundation.org/journal.

Since the science of CAMBRA has now been well-cited in the literature, clinicians are increasingly placing this knowledge into practice to the benefit of their patients. In this two-part series, this month and next, we will move from the scientific basis of CAMBRA into practical methods for dentists to incorporate the concepts into practice. The clinical protocols mentioned in this series are suggestions from experts in the field of cariology, dental practice, academic research, as well as practitioners who are already successfully using these concepts in their offices. The guidelines are suggestions for dentists who want to begin incorporating CAMBRA into their practice and are based on the best scientific evidence to date for CAMBRA. It is meant to be a starting point to aid those offices who

have a desire to begin incorporating the CAMBRA principles into their practice.

In Part 1 of this series, we asked the leading researchers in dental caries, dental academic practice, and practicing dentists to set the stage with updated information relating to the application of CAMBRA risk assessment guidelines and clinical protocols for children and adults, as well as a review of the latest products available for dentists to employ CAMBRA in their offices.

Douglas A. Young, DDS, MS, MBA; John D.B. Featherstone, MSc, PhD; and Jon R. Roth, MS, CAE, set the stage with a review of the principles of CAMBRA, as well as base line definitions used throughout the papers.

Francisco J. Ramos-Gomez, DDS, MS, MPH; James J. Crall, DDS, ScD; Rebecca L. Slayton, DDS, PhD; Stuart A. Gansky, DrPH; and Dr. Featherstone, present the latest maternal and child CAMBRA assessment tools for children age 0 to 5 and how practitioners use these tools when seeing children in their practice.

Dr. Featherstone; Sophie Domejean-Orliaguet, DDS; Larry Jenson DDS, MA; Mark Wolff, DDS, PhD; and Dr. Young, continue with an article regarding practical caries risk assessment procedures and form for patients age 6 through adult.

Dr. Jenson; Alan W. Budenz, MS, DDS, MBA; Dr. Featherstone; Vladimir W. Spolsky, DMD, MPH; and Dr. Young, provide a practical, everyday clinical guide for managing dental caries for any patient based upon the risk assessment protocols presented.

Dr. Spolsky; Brian P. Black, DDS;

and Dr. Jenson provide insights into the dental products that are currently available to assist the clinician in prudent recommendations for patient interventions using the CAMBRA principles.

Next month, we will provide practical implementation suggestions for dentists looking to begin CAMBRA in their practice, along with suggestions for educating dental team members and patients on the benefits of these approaches. That issue will culminate with a consensus statement demonstrating broad collaboration and support. ■■■■

The CDA Foundation will host a live Web cast featuring Drs. John D.B. Featherstone and Douglas A. Young, along with authors from this issue and next month's Journal, from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 5.

Participants will be able to submit questions on the topics covered in these issues for answers during the Web cast. This course is sponsored by CDA Foundation, through its grant from First 5 California, and is approved to confer two continuing education credits. To register for the event, to go: cdfoundation.org or first5oralhealth.org.