

Preface



Sook-Bin Woo, DMD, MMSc



Nathaniel S. Treister, DMD, DMSc

Guest Editors

Approximately 1.5 million Americans were expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2007. This number excludes in-situ lesions and basal cell carcinomas of the skin. Despite cancer being the second most frequent cause of mortality after cardiovascular disease, many patients do survive cancer treatment. With newer treatment regimens and the use of novel biological agents, more and more patients survive for longer periods of time, and many lead fairly normal active lives. These patients are seen by general dentists and dental specialists in the hospital and private dental office setting. The dental professional may be involved in preparing the patient for cancer therapy by screening for and treating odontogenic infections. He/she may be involved in the management of oral complications during and after cancer therapy, since with improved techniques for delivering chemotherapy, many patients who have cancer are being treated in their community rather than traveling to cancer centers. More often, such patients are seen by a general dentist for routine dental care after cancer therapy.

This issue of *Dental Clinics of North America* updates the oral health care professional on how to prepare a patient for cancer therapy and identify and manage short-term and long-term complications of cancer therapy. Articles range from the use of new therapeutic agents, such as keratinocyte growth factor that reduces the incidence of mucositis during chemotherapy, to learning how to recognize infections in patients who are immunocompromised, to understanding the socio-economic costs of oral complications.

We hope that these practical and evidence-based guidelines will be readily accessible and useful to you in the management of your patients who develop oral complications of cancer therapy.

Sook-Bin Woo, DMD, MMSc
Nathaniel S. Treister, DMD, DMSc
*Division of Oral Medicine and Dentistry
Brigham and Women's Hospital
1620 Tremont Street
Suite BC 3-028
Boston, MA 02120, USA*
*E-mail addresses: swoo@partners.org
ntreister@partners.org*