Believe it or not, Botox has a place in the dentist’s daily work! And even if he doesn’t want to administer it (and there are good reasons why he might not want to), he owes it to his patients. Patients must be aware about the benefice of Botox injection in the oral and the peri-oral region and why dentists are uniquely suited to provide it.

Until few years ago, dentists were only responsible for the treatment of dental agony and the re-establishment of the dental function. Enhancing a patient’s smile thru tooth whitening procedures and porcelain or composite veneers were considered as an overtreatment or malpractice.

We may also remember that there was a time when sinus lifts and nerve lateralization were foreign to dentistry, with many dentists saying we should not get involved in those kinds of treatments.

It is time to really start learning about how Botox can help us in dentistry. Thankfully, almost all practitioners are nowadays willing to listen to their patients’ esthetic concerns and attuned to the fact that health and function can and should go hand-in-hand with natural esthetics.

If dentists are treatment planning restorative work that affects the support of the lips, the amount of anterior tooth and gingival display then they need to realize that Botox treatment of the face (and other treatments such as dermal fillers) will impact their result and needs to be considered.

From a treatment planning viewpoint, it is widely accepted, that after finishing our dental works, many of our patients are having Botox injection procedures. Those treatments were earlier performed by dermatologists or plastic surgeons and later by obs-gynecologists and other medical specialists. Even estheticians, who didn’t have any additional training in facial anatomy, physiology, pharmacology of the products and adverse effects are doing Botox and dermal filler injections. They just learned where to place these materials by watching and learning.

Here is where a strong point is made.
• Dentists really have to start standing up for themselves and realize how advanced their training has been in the oral and maxillofacial areas.
• Dentists do many more invasive procedures in the facial areas.
• Dentists are much more familiar with how to take care of complications in these facial areas.
• Dentists are skilled at assessing the balance and overall esthetics of the face.
• Dentists have had extensive training in the anatomy of the head and neck and every day dentists inject cranial nerves in sensitive areas of the head.
• Dentists’ technical skills have been finely honed.
• Dentists no longer simply drill teeth and treat gums.

Our patients deserve better! Perhaps it is time for dentists TO GET A PROPER TRAINING IN BOTOX INJECTIONS and evolves some legs, get on the bicycle and join the ride. Who knows what we may learn along the way or what may wait at the finish line!

CERTAINLY OUR PATIENTS WILL BE THE BENEFICIARIES.

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