

Holiday 2009 Greetings

From Dr. Michael Yung, DDS

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Selene (3 years old)
and Hannah (4 months)

The Yungs Go To Disneyland!



Selene met Minnie Mouse and "drove" a car with Daddy at Autopia. Hannah was over-stimulated by all the people and rides but slept most of the time.



*Happy Holidays
from all of us at
Dr. Yung's office!*

There is so much to be thankful for this year. I am truly blessed to have gained another healthy daughter, baby Hannah, who is now a 6-month healthy, giggly, well-loved baby.

Cindy, Selene and I could not be more proud to welcome our new addition. For all our patients who are parents-to-be or parents yourselves, we know you're cherishing every moment with your children and grandchildren.

To recap this past year, we had our very first Invisalign Day where we offered a discount incentive to start treatment that same day. We hope to learn from our past experience and do more of these this coming year.

We're Going Green!

We are transforming our office into a paperless system to "go green." Not having charts in the office will also increase your security and privacy. We can e-mail your x-rays and consults to specialists.

You will be able to log in on our website, www.michaelyungdds.com, to confirm appointments, check what procedures we intend to do, access forms, and view your statement balances.

Financial Policy Form: There will be a new form to fill out! I can hear the

We will also be having a Lumineer Day to offer discounts on veneer makeovers. In case you don't know what a Lumineer is, it is a veneer technique requiring minimal tooth recontouring (little to no drilling) and no anesthetic. The technology behind making porcelain veneers stronger and thinner continues to advance so that we can remake the appearance of your front teeth with as little as three tenths of a millimeter. Yes, you can say it! "WOW! This is the ultimate form of "permanent" whitening. Also keep in mind, your natural teeth still exist underneath. If for some reason you want to remove the veneers, you'll have your own natural teeth right back.

cheers on this for miles already! This form is to clearly outline the responsibilities of the patient regarding payment of one's dental procedures.

**A BIG THANKS TO
EVERYONE WHO VOTED
FOR US!**



**OUR OFFICE WON
PASADENA WEEKLY'S 2009
"BEST DENTISTRY"
FINALIST**



PATIENT EDUCATION

I thought I'd pass on some important patient education on a hot topic in dentistry. Some of the oral surgeons we refer to have noticed bone changes when doing surgical dental procedures in some patients using a popular class of drugs used to treat osteoporosis called

bisphosphonates. Delayed healing after any invasive dental procedure such as a root canal, extraction, periodontal surgery can occur. The result of the delayed healing is **osteonecrosis** of the jaw, which means the exposed bone may not heal in the expected time or die.

Intervention with intravenous (IV) antibiotics and possibly hospitalization may be needed.

So, what are some of these bisphosphonate drugs? Fosomax, Didronel, Boniva, Actonel, and Reclast are available in oral forms while Aredia and Zometa are used intravenously. Sometimes they are offered to patients who have undergone chemotherapy in the treatment for some cancers. The risk of developing BRONJ (Bisphosphonate Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw), while exceedingly small, appears to increase when the duration of oral bisphosphonates treatment is more than three years or in the IV form.

Extra precautions may be needed, such as a simple blood test that can identify the chances for osteonecrosis called a **CTX test**. Getting this test and possibly coordinating with your physician to stop the medication for a period of 3 months could give us the time we need to do the invasive procedure with minimal risk of developing BRONJ. For more questions on this topic, please call me.

Looking Forward to the New Year

As we head towards our 6th year next April, we continue to strive to deliver better service to you in as many ways as possible.

We may have found the perfect associate to complement me, and I would like to introduce Dr. Kimberly Foon DDS to you all. ☺ I know what you're thinking, "Dr. Yung has no equal... etc etc etc", but I have a lot of confidence in her. She's already provided excellent dental care both technically and personably to our own staff and patients. Dr. Foon has been practicing as long as I have and will be working at our office two days a week, on Mondays and Tuesdays. We'll be updating the website with a full portfolio of her background in the near future.

By having an associate, we feel we

can best serve our patients' needs by adding more evenings with office hours until 7pm.

On the administrative side, we will also be adding an assistant manager/financial coordinator to complement our front office team members. I realize that insurance matters can sometimes be confusing and time consuming, so this role will be dedicated to this new team member.

Always feel welcome to contact Belle or me at any time to discuss any feedback regarding your experience with anyone on my team. I sincerely appreciate your patience as we go through the motions of expanding our team, and please know that we have your health and your concerns as our top priority.

Something New: Confirmation of Your Appointments

Just a reminder that when you are e-mailed your appointment reminder, don't forget to click "Confirm Appointment" on the bottom. Otherwise, the policy is that my staff will continue to call you until you call back or click the confirm button.

Please be aware of your dental appointments that are already scheduled. It is time consuming and costly for patients to cancel appointments last minute, which means 24 hours or less. Because this significantly affects my business, I will be collecting co-pays when you make your appointments as a general policy to help ensure a minimal number of cancellations.

I know most of you are very responsible about keeping appointments, but this makes good business sense for us. You may think of this as making a down

payment for a dental reservation. This will help speed up our administrative operations by cutting down on correspondence and getting you in and out of the office in record time (not that we don't want to shmooze with you or that you don't want to spend more time than you have to in a dental office!).

OK, here's the new part...We will charge your account for last minute cancellations especially if there is a history of cancellations noted in your file without good cause. If the habit continues, we are willing to refer you to another dentist who may have a more flexible policy. Therefore, your cooperation with this new policy would be most appreciated. We take full responsibility for your oral health care and hope you'll do the same.

If you didn't get this newsletter by e-mail, please call our office at 626-449-5420 or e-mail us at myungdds@hotmail.com with your information. Thanks!