

# ROOT WORDS

*Promoting just a little bit of knowledge...and a whole lot of Healthy Smiles*

## *Mission Statement*

*To provide excellent endodontic care in a professional, friendly environment by a highly trained and motivated team!*

*We work to fulfill our mission by making patient care our #1 goal.*

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## *Advancements in Surgical Root Canal Therapy Lead to Higher Rates of Success*

**N**onsurgical root canal therapy, when properly done, is a highly successful procedure. However, there are still cases where surgical endodontics is required. Recent improvements in surgical instruments, materials and techniques have increased the predictability for successful treatment of teeth once considered hopeless.

In some situations, surgical endodontic treatment is necessary to retain a tooth that would otherwise need to be extracted. Indications for periradicular surgery include complex root canal anatomy, irretrievable instruments or materials in the root canal, procedural accidents, persistent symptomatic cases, refractory lesions and biopsy. Endodontic surgery may also be preferred over "disassembling" a complex post-retained restoration.

We are fortunate that several advances in endodontic surgery have occurred in recent years. Surgical binoculars, operating headlamps and fiber optic illumination have been used by endodontists for many years now. Enhanced illumination and magnification have also helped increase our success rate.

The operating microscope is the latest addition to our armamentarium. Structures that are barely visible to the naked eye can be magnified up to 32 times, making the identification of minute canal openings, incipient fracture

lines and small isthmuses running between canals a routine matter.

Magnification in endodontic surgery has led to smaller surgical instruments, which facilitates precise treatment on tooth structures at these increasingly higher magnifications. Microscalpels, surgical micromirrors, and microsurgical irrigators along with miniature carriers, condensers and pluggers all help the endodontist access, identify and treat complex root canal anatomy with greater precision and less trauma. Today's piezoelectric ultrasonic handpieces are nearly one-fourth the size of the microhead handpieces once used for periradicular surgery. These instruments provide easier access and better preparation of the root-end.

The apical seal is perhaps the most important factor in the success of endodontic surgery. For decades, amalgam was the most popular root-end filling material. Researchers have now identified other materials superior in

*continued on the back side...*

*Dr. Myron Hilton earned his D.D.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry and completed his specialty training in endodontics at Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry. He is the current President-elect of the Oklahoma County Dental Society.*



*Quality Patient Care in a Comfortable Environment*

both biocompatibility and sealing ability. Reinforced zinc oxide-eugenol cements such as IRM and Super-EBA provide a better apical seal than amalgam, and are more biocompatible with the periradicular tissues.

A new root-end filling material, mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) provides excellent sealing properties. Research has also demonstrated the regeneration of cementum over the MTA root-end filling. This phenomenon has not been seen with other commonly used materials ■

**Staff Vitals**

**Leesa Miller**

There's no place like home...at least according to EA's newest endodontic assistant Leesa Miller. After four years of living in Dallas, Leesa is thrilled to be back in her native state.



**Leesa Miller**  
Endodontic Assistant

"I'm originally from Duncan," she explained, "and I have tons of aunts, uncles and cousins who are here in Oklahoma City. My sister also lives here, so now I'm able to spend lots of time with my niece and nephew. The holidays are going to be so much fun this year!"

Leesa worked in an office in Dallas with seven endodontists before moving back to Oklahoma last February. "One of them...Dr. James Gutmann...had taught Dr. Hilton when he was in dental school at Baylor, and Dr. Gutmann suggested that I might

want to contact Endodontic Associates when I got settled in. All of the doctors here at EA are really nice. It's a great job, and I love it!"

She continued, "I really like working for endodontists because the environment is so fast-paced and diverse, especially when patients are referred in emergency situations. The staff here works extremely well together...they give it their all, 100 percent of the time. This high level of teamwork helps ensure that each patient receives the best possible care."

Leesa is also very impressed that both the north and south offices are so well equipped and organized, with systems in place that keep endodontic care consistent in both locations. This means she can remain focused on patient care, rather than having to worry about finding supplies or locating files ■

**Bravo**

■ Congratulations to **Dr. Justin Beasley** and his new wife Kerri who were married in a beautiful ceremony on Sept. 4th.



*Amy is thankful that her husband (who is in the Air Force) will be home for the holidays.*

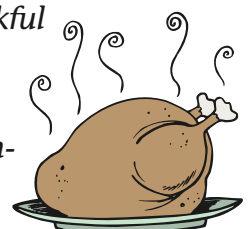
**Ladonna and Cara** are thankful that their 90 and 93 year old grandmothers are here to share Thanksgiving with them.



**Lyndsie and Audrey** both give thanks for wonderful families and great coworkers.

**Susan, Sherri and Lanora** are thankful for their health, their children and their husbands.

**Mandi** is thankful that she will be able to smell the Thanksgiving dinner this year, since last year's broken nose has finally healed.



**Karen and Renee** are both grateful for having their children home to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Please share this fun and helpful information with your staff by passing on *ROOT WORDS!* If you would like additional copies of this newsletter, please call LaDonna at Endodontic Associates, (405) 748-6000 or (800) 522-9609.