

RISBRUDT REPORTS

We feel called to be a nurturing, supportive and health-centered practice based on integrity, trust, commitment, quality, service, and dedication to technical and behavioral excellence.

About the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry

As a team, we recently attended the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry's 22nd Annual Scientific Session, *Pillars of Perfection*, in San Diego from May 16-20, 2006. AACD is the world's largest international dental organization dedicated to advancing excellence in cosmetic dentistry, of which I have recently become an active member. Members of the AACD include cosmetic and reconstructive dentists, dental laboratory technicians, dental hygienists, dental assistants, educators, researchers and students. I must tell you, the atmosphere was electric, the crowd positive and upbeat, and we were impressed with everything about the meeting!! The venue was perfect, the organization superb, the caliber of speakers world class, and the dentists and team members present were definitely NOT ordinary!!

Public awareness of the benefits of cosmetic dentistry has increased tremendously in recent years. Thanks to clinical advancements in this field, enhancement of a person's smile through cosmetic dentistry is more achievable than ever before. It dovetails perfectly with our philosophy of high quality health-centered comprehensive care, because each and every restoration should start with esthetics in our view.

The AACD was founded in 1984, and is dedicated to advancing excellence in the art and science of cosmetic dentistry and encouraging the highest standards of ethical conduct and

responsible patient care. The AACD over 7600 members in more than 60 countries around the globe. AACD members seek out continuing education through lectures, workshops and publications in order to keep abreast of the current advancements in cosmetic dental techniques and technology. In our case, I include other outside sources, like the Pankey Institute, for their Esthetic Continuum, and Masters Forum, which invites the best from all over the world to present on this subject.

In order to make sure a dentist is skilled in cosmetic or esthetic dentistry, it is recommended that patients ask for the following items before undergoing treatment:

Before and After photos—Examine the dentist's treatment results on other patients to make sure his work fits your dental needs. (*Please take a look at our before and after album in the reception room.*)

References—Get a sense from other patients as to what type of quality care the dentist provides.

Continuing Education—Be certain that the dentist is an active AACD member and has taken continuing education courses to keep up-to-date with the latest techniques in clinical cosmetic dentistry.

As is the case before undergoing any dental treatment, patients should consult with an AACD member dentist to find out which specific procedure is right for them. We want you to understand that AACD membership is another valuable adjunct to our already considerable

efforts to understand and apply comprehensive occlusal principles in any reconstructive procedure on your behalf, so that our approach is both comprehensive AND cosmetic! That kind of preparation produces results that are both cosmetic and long-lasting.

Because you deserve it!
Have a great summer!!



Thomas H. Risbrudt, DDS

www.Pankeydentist.org

We invite you to peruse this website, because it communicates vividly what we believe about comprehensive care. Dr.L.D. Pankey impacted me personally and professionally many years ago. I keep a picture of one of the more memorable occasions in my private office to remind me of a fateful week-end at a small, intimate study club setting in LaJolla in the fall of 1976 when he personally challenged me to become more relational and comprehensive in my approach to patients. After I had described my then very busy practice to him, he looked me right in the eye and said: "Sooner or later, Tom, you'll have to decide whether you want to have *superficial* relationships with a whole lot of people, or *life-changing* relationships with a few!" You see, he understood me better than I even understood myself! He sensed the longing in my heart for personalized comprehensive care, and my "busyness" was preventing me from fully attaining that longing.

That week-end started me on a lifelong journey that keeps unfolding with every new day. Little did I know then that I would ultimately become a visiting faculty member at the continuing education institute that bears his name in Key Biscayne, FL.

Last month, ten of us from the western United States that hold faculty appointments at the L.D. Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education began a journey together in a study club setting in Seattle. The sheer energy and talent in the room was awesome—I can't tell you how humbled and honored I felt to be included in such a cadre of consummate professional men! Included in our preliminary mission statement was significant discussion about becoming not only better educators and facilitators, but more compassionate and caring professional men as well. At this stage of my career, I can only guess what the collective impact of this group of individuals will be on the entire profession of dentistry!

Did You Know That We're All Digital??

Recently, while perusing some of the leading dental journals, I've become aware that we're rather "leading edge" when it comes to digital technology. And, I have been remiss in letting you know! Did you know, for instance, that we went completely paperless almost two years ago? All of our charting, appointment book, accounting, etc., is digital.

We went digital with all of our x-ray equipment as well. Result? An 80% reduction in radiation and improved diagnostic quality—a real plus all the way around for both patient and doctor alike. The time savings with digital is remarkable—the image is instantly on the screen. No more waiting for the

film processor to do its thing. The environmental impact is significant as well, as we no longer need a darkroom and all the attending chemicals formerly required for developing, fixing, and mounting x-rays. The accompanying software with digital x-rays allows refinement and enhancement of the images for better diagnostic quality. Despite the fact that only 15% of my colleagues are digital, I wonder how we ever did it any other way!!

This Just In.....

Bisphosphonate alert!! Are any of you taking any of these medications? Actonel, Aredia, Boniva, Didronel, Fosamax, Osteo, Skelid, Zometa? Caution needs to be taken regarding oral surgical procedures. Labeling is being currently updated regarding these products, falling under the broad category called bisphosphonates.

Bottom line, preventively for now: Increasing evidence is surfacing that patients with a history of bisphosphonate therapy either taken IV for cancer or orally for treatment and prevention of osteoporosis have a higher risk of spontaneous osteonecrosis of the jaw bone. (Osteonecrosis=destructive lesions of the bone.)

Precautions:

- *Avoid any elective jaw surgery procedure, including implant placement
- *Baseline and routine dental exams including panoramic radiography done on schedule
- *Delaying bisphosphonate therapy, if risk factors allow, to complete dental procedures for teeth or dental structures with poor prognosis, i.e., root canal therapy or extraction
- *Regular dental cleanings and checkups without fail

As with any medications, it is wise to ask your physician about side effects. It is part of our philosophy of personal responsibility regarding your health.

A word to the wise is prevention!!!

Summer White Sale!!

Considering whitening your teeth, or giving the gift of whitening to someone you care about? For the remainder of the summer, we are having a special rate of \$295 on Zoom2 whitening. Call the office to inquire!

The Cutting Edge.....

April 18 All day staff meeting—entire team

April 28 Laser Seminar—Dr. R.

May 12-14 Faculty Study Club—Seattle—Dr. R.

May 16-20 American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Annual Scientific Session—Entire team

June 9 L.D. Pankey Study Club of So. Calif.—Dr. R.

A total of 58 clock-hours and 254 man-hours spent on "improving our serve."

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