



# PDSA POST



## October 8th, 2025

### DENTAL PROCEDURE HIGHLIGHT: crowns!

A crown is a dental “cap” placed on top of a compromised tooth. Crowns are necessary for teeth with extensive decay/fractures as well as teeth that have undergone root canals. Traditionally, two sets of impressions are taken to assist in making a temporary crown and to be sent to a lab to make the final crown. Next, the tooth needs to be prepped. A dentist will place cotton rolls, dry angles, or a rubber dam to isolate the tooth.

Then, the dentist will use high and low speed handpieces to drill away the decay of the tooth and form a margin for the crown to sit on. Finally, the impressions that were taken before prepping the tooth are used to make the temporary crown, which remains cemented on the tooth until the final crown is synthesized by a lab.



By: Danielle Johnson

### DENTAL SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: UAB Dentistry

#### University of Alabama at Birmingham

The UAB School of Dentistry is dedicated to advancing oral health through teaching, research, patient care, and community service. Their values are rooted in teamwork, integrity, respect, and a drive for excellence. They inspire innovation, deliver exceptional education and care, and strengthen communities both locally and globally.

**Location:** Birmingham, Alabama

**Tuition:**

Alabama residents: about \$33,846 per year  
Non-residents: about \$78,892 per year

**Community engagement & outreach:** Extensive clinical rotations, satellite clinic in Dothan, programs serving underserved populations, preventive care and screenings across Alabama, participation in national networks to improve oral health access

**Fun Fact:** The first-floor Comprehensive Care Clinic was renovated, adding more chairs and integrating more digital technology.



By: Angelina Lanz

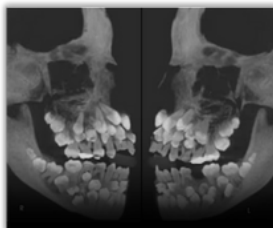
### current events IN DENTISTRY

#### 81 teeth - the highest number of teeth recorded in a single human's mouth.

A dentist in Brazil, recently treated an 11 year old girl, who had a total of 81 teeth, the most ever recorded in one person. This condition is called Hyperdontia. Known as supernumerary, the dental condition is characterized by the growth of teeth above 32 normal permanent teeth.

Hyperdontia can cause variation in shape and size of teeth, causing crowding, difficulty chewing or speaking, and jaw deformity. A team of multidisciplinary care, involving orthodontist, surgeons, and specialists to plan extractions and reconstruction of the child's jaw.

Parents should take children to the dentist for routine dental cleanings every six months. Routine panoramic x-rays can show hidden teeth early, to prevent long term dental issues.



By: Maggie Lamb

### “brush up” on... TRIVIA

#### Q: The primary purpose of using paper points during the endodontic treatment of a root canal is to:

- A. Serve as a filling material after a root canal procedure.
- B. Remove the smear layer and disinfect the root canal walls.
- C. Dry the root canal after irrigating it.
- D. Remove the infected pulp tissue and shape the canal.

By: Kendall Kunzman

ANSWER: C



# SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHT

**Periodontics** is the dental specialty focused on preventing, diagnosing, and treating diseases that damage the gums and supporting bone around the teeth. Periodontists specialize in managing advanced gum inflammation, performing dental implant surgeries, and restoring lost bone and tissue. They perform procedures pocket reduction surgery, gum grafting, bone regeneration, and implant placement.

To become a periodontist, you must earn a DMD or DDS degree and then finish a three-year residency. After residency, many pursue board certification through the American Board of Periodontology, which includes both written and oral examinations, while this is not mandatory, passing these earns the title of Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. In total, training takes about 11 years after high school.

Periodontists in the United States typically earn between \$230,000 and \$350,000 per year, with differences based on experience and location.

In Florida, Indeed reports an average annual salary of about \$309,600 depending on location and experience.



By: Daniel Ray

# DEBUNKING DENTAL MYTHS

**Myth:** Brushing harder cleans better.

**Truth:** Believe it or not, brushing your teeth harder actually does not clean your teeth better. Superfluous forces on teeth can lead to eventual wearing off of teeth due to constant abrasions to them. Chronic teeth sensitivity can be a result of this continual wearing off of teeth due to exposed nerves in the teeth.

The best advice regarding this myth is to use a soft bristled toothbrush paired with a non abrasive fluoride toothpaste. Ensuring that you cover all surfaces of your teeth using gentle firm motion while brushing is the way to go. Make sure you also floss and rinse after every meal. Think of it like giving your teeth a little mini spa every time you brush rather than a strong power washing car wash. Having accurate dental knowledge can prevent the development of future gum diseases, protect your sparkly smile, and allow you to make smart choices when it comes to your dental hygiene.

By: Hayley Chow

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UCF150



**\$70 off:**  
UCFpdsa26



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UABSPREDENTAL

## MEET THE GUEST SPEAKER:

**DR. CARLOS PIRES, DMD**

**Dr. Carlos Pires** currently practices as a periodontist in Orlando, Florida, with offices in both Winter Park and Lake Nona. Originally from São Paulo, Brazil, he earned his dental degree in 1997 at the Universidade São Francisco School of Dental Medicine.

He is a specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, as well as having completed several master's and postgraduate studies over the last 20 years. These studies include oral implantology (Universidade São Leopoldo Mandic), periodontology (Case Western Reserve University), orthodontics, and oral & maxillofacial surgery (University of Michigan).

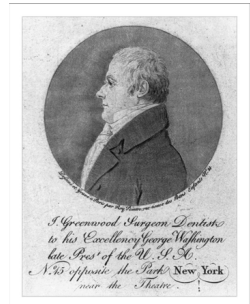
Additionally, Dr. Pires has special training in Microvascular and Microneurosurgery (at the University of Michigan), Laser Assisted New Attachment Procedure (LANAP), Image Guided Implantology system (DenX/IGI), Accelerated Orthodontic Osteotomy, and the Pinhole technique. He is the co-founder of the Dynamic Positive Pressure Sinus Augmentation Technique, which is a minimally invasive sinus bone grafting procedure. Today, Dr. Pires continues to dedicate himself to learning new and innovative techniques that ensure his patients receive quality periodontal and implant care.

By: Vivyana Joseph

## FAMOUS NAMES IN DENTISTRY

### John Greenwood

In 1790, John Greenwood invented the first known foot-powered dental drill, which he named the "dental foot engine." He modified his mother's spinning wheel, using its treadle mechanism to power a dental handpiece.



This innovation represented a major advancement in dental technology, especially in the fabrication of dentures. Greenwood used his dental foot engine to craft several sets of dentures for President George Washington.

By: Emma Aguilar

**THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING!**