

Conference Summary

Robert J. Musselman, DDS, MSD

It is obvious that everyone has found this conference on Radiation Exposure in Pediatric Dentistry to be very stimulating, enjoyable and worthwhile. Worthwhile, because we have all learned a great deal. Worthwhile, because we know this conference will have a significant and long-lasting impact on the dental care of children. Worthwhile, because the pedodontists here have found that our concerns for children and our questions about the effect of dental radiation are valid; we have been asking important questions. Worthwhile and satisfying because this conference has confirmed that pedodontists are using good judgement based on current information about the effects of dental radiation. Worthwhile because we have learned that we can modify our procedures for the best interest of the child when our information is further updated and refined.

We are reminded that this conference was stimulated by the concerns for children expressed by the pedodontists in the American Academy of Pedodontics. As the organization that represents the specialty in pedodontics it is most appropriate for our Academy to respond to these concerns. Our Officers and Board of Directors will continue to respond to such concerns from our membership.

So what will happen as a result of this conference? We know that Dr. Nowak will present a discussion of our findings at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Pedodontics in May, less than four weeks from now. A survey of these reports will be distributed to all pedodontists attending that meeting and reaction to these recommendations will be collected from our members. We also know that Dr. Nowak will discuss the recommendations of this conference at the NCHCT Technology Assessment Forum on Dental Radiology in Washington this June.

The following effects of this conference can be expected.

1. The American Academy of Pedodontics through the Advanced Education Committee will evaluate and recommend changes in the Guidelines for Advanced Education in Pedodontics to affect the teaching of dental radiology techniques, diagnosis, and radiation biology to pedodontic specialty students.
2. Through the Continuing Education Committee of the American Academy of Pedodontics, opportunities will be made available for all members of our Academy and their auxiliaries to learn more about pedodontic dental radiology.
3. The recommendations of this conference will be submitted to our Dental Care Committee to be included in the revision of the Guidelines for Dental Care Programs published jointly by the American Academy of Pedodontics and the American Society of Dentistry for Children.
4. These proceedings will be given to the American Board of Pedodontics for use in evaluating their requirements for radiographic records of cases submitted for board certification, and for their use in the site visit portion of Board Certification Examination.
5. We will recommend that the Academy establish a committee on Pedodontic Dental Radiology as suggested at one of the workshops. That committee will be able to work in several areas.
 - a. They will be able to implement pedodontic dental radiology quality assurance programs which will aid pedodontists in maintaining what I know is already a high standard of quality in the taking and processing of dental radiographs for children.
 - b. This committee will be able to work with state and local governments and insurance carriers on issues concerning dental radiology in children.
 - c. This committee can encourage research in areas of dental radiology for children; it seems particularly appropriate that we take steps to correct the fact that there are no child-size phantoms for use in radiation research.
 - d. This committee can develop methods for coordinating with other health professionals and for assuring that we share radiographic information about children we treat.
 - e. This committee can develop methods to help assure that we are obtaining maximum information from each radiograph and making sure that that information is available for the maximum benefit of the child.
 - f. This committee could affect some changes in the

inadequacies in all the current texts concerning recommendations on pedodontic radiology.

The planning committee will share with all conference members in the responsibility for affecting these changes. We look forward to working with all of you on the many important issues raised at this conference.

Now is the appropriate time to acknowledge some of the individuals who have played such a key role in this conference. First, let us acknowledge Dr. Ken Troutman, a member of the planning committee from

the inception of the conference. Next, Dr. Robert Creedon, also a member of the planning committee and in charge of local arrangements. We have all been treated most hospitably, and we give special acknowledgment to Bob and his staff for their extra efforts on our behalf. Last, we acknowledge Dr. Nowak, conference director, who has been untiring in guiding us through the myriad details required to plan and execute such a highly successful conference. He knows, as do we all, that the serious work has just begun.
