

VITAL SIGNS & PATIENT MONITORING

**A Four-Hour Dental Continuing Education Program
by
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion, the course participant should:

- Understand the two rationales for taking vital signs on dental patients.
- Understand the ultimate goal of vital signs is to assure continuous adequate tissue perfusion.
- Understand the value of multiple sets of vital signs, especially on a patient in distress.
- Know the 6 academically recognized vital signs.
- Understand which vital signs directly relate to cardiac function and which relate to respiratory function.
- Have a working definition of respiration
- Know the anatomic components of the respiratory system.
- Know the three components of respiration and which is most impacted during dental treatment.
- Be able to define respiratory minute volume, tidal volume and functional residual capacity.
- Understand what vital signs reveal about the respiratory system's efficacy and what the vital signs do not reveal.
- Have a basic understanding of how blood moves through the heart and body.
- Have a basic understanding of the cardiac cycle.
- Understand what constitutes a heart beat.
- Understand what pressure is being measured during systole and diastole.
- Know and be able to demonstrate the proper technique for taking each of the 6 vital signs.
- Know the boundaries of normal for each vital sign, the consequence of abnormal signs and when immediate medical attention is required.
- Have a basic understanding of pulse oximetry and how it assesses respiration.
- Understand the impact of oxygen on pulse oximetry.

COURSE OUTLINE

- 1) Why take vital signs?
- 2) What are the common vital signs?
- 3) What is happening in the body when vital signs are taken?
- 4) How do we take vital signs?
- 5) How do we interpret vital signs?
- 6) What is the "ultimate" vital sign?