

> **SON OF
A BLEACH**

**MAR
2015**

Extrusion of sodium hypochlorite into the periradicular and medullary venous system is commonly referred to as a 'bleach accident'. There is a good chance of this occurring at least once in your career. This newsletter will address its signs and symptoms; future newsletters will speak to its risk factors and treatment as well as tips on prevention. Typical symptoms are listed below from most to least likely:

- Immediate pain with possible burning sensation even if local anaesthesia is profound. The pain can range from mild to extraordinarily severe and distressing.
- Vigorous bleeding from the orifice of the affected canal that cannot be ceased.
- Immediate or delayed
 - o Oedema with one reported case of Ludwig's angina
 - o Haematoma
 - o Ecchymosis
- Delayed:
 - o Altered sensation (i.e. hypoesthesia, paraesthesia, hyperaesthesia)
 - o Fistula formation
 - o Necrosis of local tissue
 - o Local muscle weakness or paralysis

The more pronounced the pain and the sooner other signs and symptoms arise the more likely the accident is severe. Emergency endodontic microsurgery is warranted in some cases and immediate medical attention for the most egregious cases. A rough guide to categorising the severity of the accident is:

- Oedema only
- Ecchymosis of angle of mouth and periorbital region (pathognomonic appearance)
- Ecchymosis also extends into the neck
- Ecchymosis also extends into the chest

Your local endodontist should be advised forthrightly if you suspect a bleach accident has occurred. Immediate medical attention is necessary if the ecchymosis extends to the chest. A full recovery can be expected in most cases especially if the problem is recognised early and effective countermeasures are taken. Even though these accidents are severe they are rare. With this in mind sodium hypochlorite remains the irrigant of choice for endodontic treatment. Other irrigants provide complimentary roles only. Whenever you think 'son of bleach' better call Joel.

Regards,



Dr. Joel N. Fransen
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Certified Specialist in Endodontics

Thanks to those listed on the other side, we managed to be one of the first ten in BC to raise \$15K! That means I will get the honour of wearing a polka dot jersey this August.

The highest donor to my ride in the month of March will be awarded four Whitecaps FC tickets. So far the leader is Dr. Alex McLean at \$350. There is still time to beat him!

As promised I have matched the dental donations to date costing me over \$6K. Let's continue to raise some more money for oral cancer research!

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Office Hours
8am to 5pm - Monday to Friday
Extended hours are also available

The Richmond Endodontic Centre Boardroom is open; it is available for meetings, lectures, and study clubs. Please come by and have a look at our new presentation centre!



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