

Successful Management of Acute Dental Pain

Ken M. Hargreaves, DDS, PhD

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Hargreaves@UTHSCSA.edu

1. A “3D” approach for managing acute dental pain

2. **Diagnosis**
 - a. Differential dx
 - b. Referred pain
 - i. Mechanisms
 - ii. How to Dx
 - c. Persistent Pain

3. **Definitive Dental Treatment**
 - a. Removing the source
 - b. Pulpotomy
 - c. Canal debridement
 - d. Occlusal adjustment
 - e. IND

4. **Drugs**
 - a. Levels of evidence (evidence-based analgesic use)
 - b. NSAIDs and other non-narcotic analgesics
 - i. Update on COX1 vs COX2
 - ii. Advantages/Disadvantages
 - iii. Contraindications
 - iv. Ibuprofen
 - v. Acetaminophen
 1. FDA update
 - c. Opioids
 - i. Adjunct vs primary analgesic
 - ii. Relative effectiveness
 - iii. Combination analgesics
 - d. Pharmacogenetics

5. **Pain Control Strategies**
 - a. What does not work
 - b. Flexible Rx plan
 - c. Analgesic combinations to consider