Exposing the facts on CBCT exposure

There are many misconceptions about the radiation dosages of medical CT compared to CBCT scans, and about exposure of the differing CBCT machines available to dentists today.

Here’s a quick and fun true/false test that sheds some light on this serious subject. See how well you do.

1. Compared to medical CT scans, CBCT scans offer reduced exposure to radiation.
2. The radiation exposure of a CBCT scan is significantly higher than a full-mouth intraoral X-ray series.
3. The 2-D pans from CBCT machines deliver higher levels of radiation exposure than those from a traditional 2-D pan machine.
4. The larger the CBCT’s field of view (anatomical area scanned), the greater the radiation.
5. The potential of cone-beam scanners for collimating the primary X-ray beam — that is, to scale down the view to a smaller region of the anatomy — can create a reduction in radiation exposure.

The answers

1. True. Compared to medical CT scanners, CBCT scans offer reduced exposure to radiation.
2. False. The radiation exposure of a CBCT scan is significantly lower than a full-mouth intraoral X-ray series.
3. True. The 2-D pans from CBCT machines deliver higher levels of radiation exposure than those from a traditional 2-D pan machine.
4. True. The larger the CBCT’s field of view (anatomical area scanned), the greater the radiation.
5. False. The potential of cone-beam scanners for collimating the primary X-ray beam — that is, to scale down the view to a smaller region of the anatomy — can create a reduction in radiation exposure.

Television viewers experience Icon

Icon, the caries infiltrant system introduced by DMG America in September, made its television debut last year when it was featured on 10 Fox News segments and on Better-TV, a daytime nationally syndicated lifestyle show, in December.

Icon was also featured on “The Doctors,” a nationally syndicated television show produced by Dr. Phil, in October.

Dr. Thomas P. Connelly, a cosmetic dentist who practices in New York City, was interviewed in the segments about how quickly and painlessly the Icon system can be used to arrest dental caries and eliminate unattractive white spot — evident after wearing braces — with no drilling, anesthetic or loss of healthy tooth structure.

“In the Fox News segments, a patient who said she tried to avoid drilling and needles as much as possible received Icon treatment to arrest an incipient carious lesion.

“With the Icon system ... we can prevent it from progressing, fill it without drilling and without anesthetic ... and prevent it from becoming a full blown cavity,” Connelly explained. “What we’re left with is a tooth-resin hybrid structure that is rebuilt, re-strengthened and resistant to decay.”

For more information or to view full clips from the shows, visit the Drilling No Thanks! Web site at www.drilling-no-thanks.com.