

EP. 64 Interview with Meeghan Hurley, Hygiene Team Leader

We spoke to Meeghan Hurley and learned about a new desensitizing product hot in the market and why it's so important to be open-minded in this profession.

Q. Tell us about your practice.

A. I am from a perio office in Monroe, Connecticut. The doctor is Richard Amato and I love this office. I am very lucky I found this office. I'm a second generation hygienist. My mom is also a hygienist and she's use to 40-minute patients. So being at this office, he gives a lot of benefits. To see the difference in what he utilizes in technology and how much he likes to utilize the quarterly SI meetings. It makes a huge difference and boosts morale. It makes you want to get your foot in there even more. He utilizes a lot of advanced therapies. We do LANAP and LAPIP procedures. He also utilizes the Chao Pinhole technique. As far as we know, we are the only office that utilizes these 3 specialized procedures. Plus, he wants us to get out there and get our hands on new products. There is a desensitizing product called Kuraray that we've been experiencing with.

Q. I haven't heard of Kuraray. Tell us about that.

A. It's a new desensitizer that utilizes calcium phosphates. When they dry and you apply it, it forms the the hydroxyapatite crystalline structure that makes up the enamel of the teeth. For people who think they are going to die from fluoride, this is a great alternative. This was presented at a CE program.

Q. Are you able to do this chairside as a hygienist?

A. Yes. I've only tried it on two people so far who were suitable candidates. You can apply it locally or generally. I had one patient who did it on an entire quadrant and the other patient only on two surfaces. They felt immediate relief with the air/water syringe.

Q. Have you seen your hygiene department grow since you've been with this practice?

A. Yes. I've only been with the office since Summer of 2015. I started out one day a week and when the fulltime hygienist took a step back, I filled in for her and grew into the team leader role. We have another hygienist who is there on different days. We are still looking to grow.

Q. Do you have some big goals set for this year?

A. We've accomplished a couple of them already. We did some renovations. We just have to complete two treatment rooms that were formerly an office and break room.

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Q. What are some challenges or a tip on being a team leader?

A. You have to be open-minded. Being a hygienist, a lot of what we study in school is very fact-based and very cut and dry. It's really easy to get stuck in that mindset. Working at this office, it's helped me to keep an open mind and experiment with different things in the office.

Q. Having an open mind allows you to hit those big numbers.

A. Honestly, if I haven't become a part of this office and part of this training, I probably would have been burnt out already and I'm still a relatively new hygienist.