The Importance of Muscle Function for Optimal Airway Treatment: A Foundation for Airway Health

November 8, 2018 | 8AM - 11:30AM | Cost: Included | CE Credits: 3.5

An optimal airway depends on the hard dental and skeletal structures and on the function of the soft tissue musculature. Muscle tone and function have received only limited attention in dentistry and orthodontics until recently. Today, with recognition of its relevance to the airway, practitioners are clamoring for information and training for identification and treatment to restore optimal muscle function to support patients’ care. Various approaches include: myofunctional therapy, myofunctional orthodontics, cranio-sacro-fascial therapies, and more. Although approaches and techniques vary, restoring proper muscle is essential for best, long lasting results. With this awareness there will be an increased need for competent therapists in dental offices and working independently.

Speakers

- Amanda Chastain, MA, CCC-SLP, COM
- Joy Moeller, BS, RDH
- Sandra Coulson, MS, ST, ED, COM
- Kelly Baker, RDH, OMT
- Leslie Stephens, CEO Healthy Start
- James Bronson, DDS, PC
- Sandra Kahn, DDS, MSD
- Jennifer Tow, BFA, IBCLC

Moderator: Barry Raphael, DDS

Dr. Barry Raphael, an orthodontist in private practice for 33 years, changed the character of his practice to address airway and myofunctional (muscle habit) issues about 8 years ago. He wants his transition to serve as a model for how the priorities of the profession can and should change. He has brought many of the airway-focused techniques into his practice, including: Myobrace, ALF, Biobloc Orthotropics, Myofunctional Therapy, Breathing Re-Patterning, Non-Rettractive Orthodontics and more. Dr. Raphael works with children as young as 4 years old to address early breathing, posture and sleep habits to minimize facial shape changes and crooked teeth. Dr. Raphael is a member of the AAPMD, the American Association of Orthodontists, the American College of Dentists, and the American Dental Association. He is a past president of the Passaic County Dental Society, and chairman of the Donated Orthodontic Services for the NJ Association of Orthodontists.

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