

Dentists Help Surgeons

➤ DENTISTS are branching out from their traditional job of making impressions for false teeth to making devices to improve the head and neck appearance after cancer surgery. They have long been aiding in the detection of oral cancer, which is sometimes missed by the physician.

The American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, made up largely of dentists interested in cancer of the head and neck as well as members of Navy and Army dental corps and at least a dozen medical specialists, has concluded the first workshop of its kind to coordinate treatment of the disfiguring conditions following surgery.

Every dental school was asked to expand its curriculum to include a three-year training program for dentists and dental technicians to improve prosthetic work related to the head and neck, including eyes, ears, jaws, throat and palate.

Practicing dentists and oral surgeons were urged to make a rapid visual inspection of the neck and facial areas of each patient before telling him to open his mouth.

With 6,000 deaths a year resulting from oral cancer, it is noteworthy that only two of five patients survive for five years and that many who do live have undergone major operations about the oral cavity, face or neck, with varying degrees of disability.

Dr. Murray M. Copeland, head of the department of surgery at M. D. Anderson Hospital, Houston, said University of Texas Dental Branch faculty members had developed the Maxillofacial Service into the outstanding example of this type of service in the United States.

The proximity of the Houston Speech and Hearing Center is a great help to the rehabilitation of surgery patients who have lost the larynx to cancer. The fitting of dentures helps in retraining such patients to talk.

Plastic surgeons, radiologists, dermatologists, pediatricians, psychiatrists, prosthodontists, general practitioners and nurses are needed to cooperate in rehabilitating head and neck cancer patients, and those who have sustained injuries.

Almost three million Americans have been fitted with artificial eyes, ears and other prosthetic devices. All too frequently, there has been little cooperation among the various branches of medicine, Capt. Victor J. Niiranen, Academy president, said.

The cancer control branch of the division of chronic diseases, bureau of state services, U.S. Public Health Service, awarded a grant to support the workshop in Washington, D.C.

TECHNOLOGY

Electric Reducing Device Barred From Market

AN ELECTRICAL device promoted nationwide as an effortless reducing method has been barred from interstate distribution under that kind of claim.

The machine has been widely advertised and sold under a variety of names such as Figurecare, Figuretone, Figuremagic and Isotron.

An injunction complaint initiated by the Food and Drug Administration said the machine was represented as "a convenient, pleasant, comfortable, restful, refreshing and relaxing form of exercise which will achieve weight reduction and girth reduction . . . all of which is contrary to fact."

A permanent injunction curtailing interstate shipment of the device has been issued by the U.S. District Court in Dallas, Texas.

The Dallas complaint was the second injunction action filed within three months against an alleged electrical reducing device. A similar complaint charging false and misleading claims was filed July 12 against Relax-a-cizor, Inc., of Los Angeles.

The FDA has long contended that promotional claims for the device manufactured by John D. Richardson, Texas, were false and misleading, violating

labeling provisions of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. More than 100 of the devices have been seized in separate court actions in ten states over the past five years.

The device sends electrical currents into the body through pads applied to the skin, causing an intermittent contraction of muscles.

In addition to disputing claims that the machine can achieve weight reduction, girth reduction, or a significant increase in calorie consumption, the injunction complaint charged that some of the "before and after" pictures used in advertisements were taken on the same day; some of the people who posed for "before and after" pictures actually were dissatisfied with the device and did not consider it effective; and some of the people who allegedly achieved "remarkable benefits" had not.

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