

# Meth Mouth: A State of Decay



## Learning Objectives:

- ✓ Understand what methamphetamine is and why it is more addictive than other street drugs
- ✓ Learn the signs of methamphetamine use that are evident during a routine clinical exam
- ✓ Explore the realities of addiction and how to discuss substance abuse with patients
- ✓ Discover the do's and don'ts to treat methamphetamine users safely, effectively and with confidence

**Suggested Format:** Partial Day; Lecture, Workshop, Keynote

**Suggested Attendees:** Dentists, Hygienists and Team Members

Are you aware that treating a dental patient who is high on methamphetamine could be fatal? If the next patient who walked into your office was high on methamphetamine, would you know what to do, what to say, and how to treat?

With methamphetamine being the second most widely abused drug in the world, it is likely that you are treating patients who use methamphetamine and have “meth mouth”; teeth that are rotted, blackened, and broken. Many clinicians are not aware of the signs and symptoms of methamphetamine use, or the medical, legal, and ethical issues associated with treating the addicted patient. Being aware of patients’ substance abuse histories is the first step towards patient and practice safety.

With more than 20 years treating “meth mouth” and publishing research, Dr. Ronni Brown understands the behavioral and clinical challenges that the dental team faces when treating the addicted patient. These patients can be treated successfully and the dental team can play a pivotal role in changing the direction of these patient’s lives.

In this interactive, multi-media presentation, discover why methamphetamine is the “hot” street drug and why users will give up their smile for a meth high. Learn how to become aware of methamphetamine use in your practice and how to communicate your concerns to your patients. Receive effective, safe, and realistic strategies for treating patients who have “meth mouth”. Recognize your professional responsibilities and your own personal boundaries in treating the “addicted” patient.

*“Dr. Brown is a thoughtful and enthusiastic speaker. Our group of dentists, hygienists, and office staff was so impressed with her Evidence-based Dentistry presentation that we invited her back for her Meth-Mouth presentation and were not disappointed. She intersperses research with patient vignettes to provide a unique and evidence-based presentation that keeps all audience members engaged.”*

—Jennifer Clemens, DMD, MPH; Dental Director, Capitol Dental Care, Inc.

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