Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

One Credit Hour Professional Course Syllabus

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Background / Purpose:

This course is designed to provide the advanced-level dental practitioner with sufficient general and specific clinical pharmacology knowledge to appropriately and safely utilize drugs in the treatment of their patients. The course content will be concentrated in the following three areas:

1. General Clinical Pharmacology Principles: The purpose of this section is to provide information on clinical pharmacokinetics, adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, and the psychosocial use of drugs. This information is important in the prescriber’s therapeutic use of a medication. Additionally, utilization of the dental / medical literature will be addressed.

2. General Clinical Pharmacology of Medications Utilized in the Treatment of Common Diseases: This section will provide general pharmacological information on medications used to treat diseases that may concomitantly occur with patient’s dental problems. When appropriate, attention and emphasis will be given to specific details concerning potential adverse drug reactions and / or drug interactions that may occur with a patient’s dental condition or therapy. General background knowledge of drug effects is considered valuable information for the practitioner.

3. Specific Clinical Pharmacology of Drugs Utilized by Dental Practitioners: The purpose of this section is to provide in-depth, clinical pharmacology-related information concerning specific categories of drugs frequently used in dental practice. Prescribing considerations and issues of product selection will be highlighted.

The small class size should facilitate open and informal discussion. The student is encouraged to prepare for this format. Handout material will be distributed prior to the specific class period.
Objectives:

At the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the general pharmacokinetic principles that are important in designing drug dosing regimens.
2. Describe the common types of adverse drug reactions and drug interactions as well as how they can be anticipated, avoided, detected, and treated.
3. Describe the important psychosocial aspects of patient drug abuse, patient compliance with prescribed therapy, and appropriate prescribing behavior.
4. Discuss the general clinical pharmacology of medications commonly prescribed for the therapy of frequently occurring disease states.
5. Describe the specific clinical pharmacological aspects of medications that are commonly utilized in the dental care of patients.

Course Organization:

1. Format: Class each week will consist of a lecture and discussion of a topic, in the context of dental practice needs.

2. Meeting Time: Class meets each week for four consecutive weeks on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in 150 Old Dental building. On Friday, July 10, the class will meet in Room 3180 Old Dental. The course begins on July 10 and will conclude on July 31.

3. Grading: The student who attends 3 lectures will earn a pass. An attendance roster will be distributed some time before the end of each class. If an individual is interested in earning an H, please see the instructor about completing a paper on a subject covered in the class. If there is an excused absence, please notify the course coordinator in advance of the date and reason for missing.