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345 East 24th Street, Clinic 1W
New York, NY 10010-4086

(212) 998-9757
http://dental.nyu.edu/ce
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AM SESSION:
Local Anesthetics – Dentistry’s Most Important Drugs
An important area of research has been the development of new drugs, both local anesthetics, such as articaine, as well as drugs to reverse soft tissue anesthesia – phentolamine mesylate, buffered lidocaine – producing a more rapid onset, more comfortable injection and more profound anesthesia, and the nasal local anesthetic mist – Kovanest, providing needle-less maxillary anesthesia. These and other areas of current research into improving pain control will be discussed.

PM SESSION:
Is the “Mandibular Block” Passé?
The ‘mandibular nerve block’ has the lowest success rate of major nerve blocks administered in the human body. Newer techniques, such as the Gow-Gates mandibular nerve block; the Akinosi-Vazirani closed mouth mandibular nerve block; Intraosseous anesthesia; and the Periodontal ligament injection have been developed in an effort to improve success in this area. The local anesthetic articaine HCl has been demonstrated to have significant success when administered by mandibular infiltration in adults, while more recently the ability to buffer local anesthetic solutions has demonstrated potential to both increase the rate of onset of anesthesia as well as increasing its depth.