

Guy Jackson.
High School Dental Unit.
Inverness.
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Dear Brian

At the high school dental clinic, we run anxious child referral clinics where local GDP's refer children for treatment they are unable to complete with conventional local anaesthesia and behaviour management. In the past, we had used a mixture of behavioural management, inhalation sedation and general anaesthesia to treat these patients.

Last spring we introduced The Wand to the unit and it has been used extensively by 3 dentists in the unit.

From my point of view, it has changed the way I approach the management of anxious children, many of whom have anxiety about or previous bad experience of local anaesthesia.

With The Wand, I find I can give reliable, quick and acceptable local anaesthetic injections. The non-threatening appearance and more relaxed position made possible with The Wand reduces the stress and strain to me as an operator when, for example, administering an ID block to a nervous child.

We have been using a visual analogue scale to gauge the responses of children to The Wand. The overwhelming response is very positive: "much better than getting a jag".

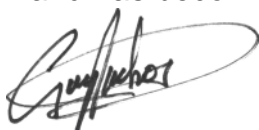
Orthodontic extractions are made much easier: giving a pain-free palatal with no stress or uncertainty makes for an easier working day.

There is a learning curve and an adaptation to a different way of thinking about anaesthesia. In the High school in Inverness, we have cut the waiting list for inhalation sedation right down and have reduced the reliance on General Anaesthesia since beginning to use The Wand. In no way do I now view the introduction of local anaesthesia in a young child as a significant hurdle.

Cost-wise, we are at the beginning of looking at carrying out an audit to justify the expense of The Wand to NHS highland. In terms of reduced need for inhalation sedation and General anaesthesia, there are clear cost savings. From the point of view of less time needed for acclimatisation and more relaxed patients, there are clear savings in terms of reduced clinical time.

I would unreservedly recommend The Wand to any dentist involved with treating children or anxious patients. Reduced clinical time, reliable anaesthesia given with virtually no stress: The Wand has become absolutely indispensable in my practice.

Guy Jackson



Senior Dentist: special interest in Children's Dentistry