

Informed Consent Not So Controversial in California

Educators and private practitioners should be aware that California is one of the states where the provision of informed consent apparently is not controversial.



A recent *Journal of the American Dental Association* article reporting the results of a survey about the number of dentists who provide informed consent for the provision of local anesthesia generated positive comments from several California dental educators.^{1,2} However, one missive opined that California law, as the educator understood it, does not require consent for the administration of local anesthesia.³

Educators and private practitioners should be aware that California is one of the states where the provision of informed consent apparently is not controversial. This is evidenced in California by provisions such as California Jury Instruction

532, which includes the statement "The patient must be told about any risk of death or serious injury or significant potential complication that may occur if the procedure is performed."

It is well-documented that the administration of local anesthesia can result in death or serious injury.

Sincerely,
Daniel L. Orr, II, DDS, PhD, JD, MD
Clinical Professor of Surgery and
Anesthesiology for Dentistry
University of Nevada School of Medicine

References / 1. Orr DL, Curtis WJ, Obtaining written informed consent for the administration of local anesthetic in dentistry, *J Am Dent Assoc* 136(5):1568-71, November 2005.

2. Dower JS, Indresano AT, Peltier B, Letters to the Editor, *J Am Dent Assoc* 137(4):438, April 2006.

3. Jacobsen PL, *J Am Dent Assoc* 137(4):437-8, April 2006.