

DDS DENTAL NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF THE DENTAL COORDINATOR: Spotlight on Oral Health



Recently I had an opportunity to meet one of our DDS consumers, Ms. Sandra Cusano, who taught me the true meaning of perseverance and determination. With her permission, I am honored to share her story with you.

Many years ago, Sandra's upper teeth were extracted and replaced with a removable denture. Sandra absolutely hated the denture. She found it to be bulky, and made eating and talking difficult. Additionally, it came out at night. This was totally unacceptable to this vibrant woman. She wanted teeth that stayed in her mouth! Ultimately she decided that she wanted dental implants.

Over the years she met with numerous dentists who told her that it would be impossible to consider a permanent solution with dental implants. She was told that she did not have enough bone in her mouth to support the implants. That answer was not a good enough answer for Sandra. She kept searching for someone who would listen to her needs and help her obtain her goal of having permanent teeth.

She finally met an oral surgeon who was willing to try and who gave Sandra hope. He suggested that bone from her hip be transplanted to her mouth, creating a more stable environment for the implants. Sandra was thrilled with this possibility.

In 2009, the oral surgeon and his team performed the required surgery to increase the bone level so Sandra could have her implants. The surgery was successful, and one year later she had another surgical procedure done to install her implants. Once she had healed from the surgical implants she had a denture fabricated that was placed over the implants. The denture was fully secured and would not come out. The final result is that today Sandra has teeth that stay in her mouth all the time. They look natural and Sandra can't stop smiling.

Sandra's story is not only about teeth, but about perseverance and self actualization. It's a story about a woman who created a dream for herself and was willing to pursue that dream. During her journey, Sandra learned how to budget her finances, how to communicate her needs, and how to plan ahead. She learned how to schedule appointments, arrange for transportation through Logistic Care, and to time everything to perfection. This is extremely difficult to do because transportation

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Spotlight on Oral Health Continued

needs to be scheduled 48 hours in advance, dental and medical appointments are periodically rescheduled and Sandra lives over an hour away from the dental facility. This is not an easy task, yet Sandra persevered. She has her teeth and the most beautiful smile; a smile that comes from within. When I met Sandra a few weeks ago, she was busy planning a party to celebrate her new teeth.

There only remains one question: What is next for Ms. Sandra Cusano? I can't wait to find out.



**The FDA Safety Information and
Adverse Event Reporting Program**

Spinbrush Powered Toothbrush by Arm and Hammer or Crest: Safety Communication - Choking Hazard and Serious Injuries

ISSUE: FDA notified parents, caregivers, consumers, and dental care professionals about reports of serious injuries and potential hazards associated with the use of all models of the Spinbrush. These reports indicated that while turned on, the brush head has either "popped off" or broken off in the user's mouth or near the face, causing cuts to the mouth and gums, chipped or broken teeth, swallowing and choking on the broken pieces, and injuries to the face and eyes. When the unexpected release of any part of the powered toothbrush occurs, there is a potential for serious injury. This risk is higher for unattended children or adults who may need assistance while using this device.

RECOMMENDATIONS: FDA recommends that consumers:

- Inspect the Spinbrush for any damage or loose brush bristles prior to using. If you notice any damage or loose brush bristles, **DO NOT USE**.
- Check to be sure that the headpiece is connected properly to the handle of the brush and test your brush outside of the mouth prior to using. If you notice the connection feels loose or the headpiece easily detaches from the handle, **DO NOT USE**.
- Supervise children and adults who need assistance when using the Spinbrush.
- Do not bite down on the brush head while brushing.

See the FDA Safety Communication for FDA/manufacturer recommendations and product photos.

Prompt reporting of adverse events can help the FDA identify and better understand the risks associated with medical devices. If you suspect a problem with a Spinbrush, we encourage you to file a voluntary report through FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:

- Complete and submit the report Online: www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm
- Download form or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on the pre-addressed form, or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178

Read the MedWatch safety alert, including links to the Safety Communication and Consumer Update, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm292239.htm>

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