



Shannon Pace Brinker, CDA, CDD, is a national and international speaker, published author, and a full-time practicing dental assistant for over 23 years. She is a past faculty member at the Dawson Academy and Spear Education, an active member and first auxiliary to sit on the AACD Board of Directors, and had extensive input for the certified dental designer CDD certification. Shannon got her teammates hooked on Mr. Thirsty several years ago after she brought back samples from Zirc's booth at the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting.



**SHANNON
PACE
BRINKER,
CDA, CDD**

How Mr. Thirsty Makes a Difference in the Practice

WITH SHANNON PACE BRINKER, CDA, CDD

Q: There are many options in isolation. Why Mr. Thirsty One-Step from Zirc?

A: It's fast, easy to connect, and fits all patients. That's simply the answer. Due to patients' time and the schedule we have, we simply can't afford to cut corners. Several of our dentists in the practice do not use a rubber dam. This has been the answer for my team and our practice.

Mr. Thirsty is able to fit any size mouth with the ability for the patient to feel rested and not pried open. It doesn't have long tubes and connections like other devices, and the suction is as strong as the HVE suction tip. Mr. Thirsty helps keep the patient's airway free of saliva, water, and debris. Disposable items are the focus with most products we order in our practice due to the volume of patients. Most importantly, patients are asking for it by name! We are now marketing it with our email blast to let patients know we care about their safety and comfort.

Q: Can you recall a case where Mr. Thirsty made a difference in the clinical outcome?

A: One of our patients has Parkinson's disease. She is so sweet and very concerned with both the doctor and I working on her...When we brought

out Mr. Thirsty, she immediately was concerned, but when we demonstrated how it works, she was pleasantly surprised and really felt more at ease during the treatment. This was because she was able to rest on the bite block itself and also had more control of suction and materials. After the treatment, she wrote us the nicest review about myself and the doctor. This was a very big deal to our practice, but also a testimony for Zirc and practices that need help with any patient who has this type of disease or even special needs patients.

Q: What should clinicians keep in mind when choosing an isolation device?

A: Consider OSHA and compliance for all materials and equipment. How can the practice be aware of timing and how much of that time can be saved by utilizing isolated devices? In the morning huddle, we decide what we need for each patient and identify difficult patients. This is when we would plan to use Mr. Thirsty. The ability to have different sizes for each patient allows us to customize their treatment. We have a system that can be used by the whole team in every operator within the practice and one that gives everyone the chance to utilize this system for help with procedures.