

## **Fixing faces painlessly: facial block anesthesia**

Kip Benko, MD

The use of bupivacaine for dental pain has gained acceptance and is now commonly used when supraperiosteal injections are performed. The duration of action of bupivacaine is generally regarded as ranging from four–eight hours in the mouth. The literature, however, suggests that bupivacaine has effects which are longer lasting than just its anesthetic effects. It has some central effect which makes it very attractive as not only a long acting anesthetic, but also as an adjunctive analgesic agent. In other words, with regard to dental pain, which is often initially treated in the ED, the need for opioid analgesia can be significantly reduced by the addition of a long acting anesthetic to a non-narcotic regimen. Thus, the use of bupivacaine injection for the treatment of odontalgia should be considered to be the best initial therapy for the majority of patients.

Dr. Benko's lectures and skills labs will utilize actual patient video to help emphasize and clarify concepts and techniques.

**Dr. Benko** is an Assistant Clinical Professor of EM at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. At the 2007 ACEP convention, Dr. Benko is lecturing on facial anesthesia in emergency medicine, dental emergencies in emergency medicine and three dental skills labs sessions.