# Attracting New Dental Patients in the New Economy

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New Patient Systems Inc.



#### Before We Begin...

# Why Do We Need a Constant Flow of New Patients Anyways?

- Your direct loss
- Your opportunity loss

Some other practice gets them and they grow, not you

#### 3 Sides of the Story...

What the dental office sees

What the dental office doesn't see

What the dental office doesn't want to see

# What the Dental Office Sees When there Are No New Patients

"Dentists don't need to do marketing"

"Referrals only"

- Increased cancellations
- Increased patients leaving
- Not as many bookings
- More competition

Puts you in a weird position

# What the Dental Office Doesn't See

- How the new economy blocks new patients
- Patient attrition rate and its impact
- The "hidden" things that are working
- Proper dental marketing
  - Why? Too busy, don't know, don't care about marketing details

#### It's bad out there

New patient flow drying up

New patients are the lifeblood of the practice

= death by papercuts

# What You Will Discover in the Next 45 minutes...

Strategy: How we can get more new patients to book every month, despite the new economy challenges

- 1. What we are up against and why we need to change our approach
- 2. What is proper dental marketing exactly? What 99% of marketing companies miss
- 3. How to do so by reducing or eliminating doctor and staff marketing labour
- 4. What strategies will make the biggest impact the fastest NOW: Introducing "Core 3"

# Properly caffeinated? Lots of information

Far more advanced than anything dental marketing companies are producing

Don't worry about reading each slide.

#### Why Should I Listen to Paul Special?

- Science geek Electrical Engineering and Physics background
- Fell into dentistry and stayed
  - Way more women in dentistry than engineering
  - Worked at front desk for years: testing,
     learning and listening
  - Professional people
  - —Oh, and the marketing strategies were working...

#### Why Should I Listen to Paul Special?

- Established multiple advertising systems (from recalls, to emergencies, to big cases) that have and continue to generate as many as 156 new patient calls and bookings monthly for over 10 years in highly competitive areas.
- Established 100% of clients as the highest rated offices in North America.
- Established 100% of clients as position 1-3 on the front page in Google search rankings. In most of these cases achieved 2 or 3 listings on the first page. These rankings continue to hold despite changes to Google and new competition.
- Produced ads that have brought in over \$255,000 in cosmetic cases.
- Produced high demand promotions which resulted in over \$132,000 in increased production, re-activations, crown and bridge/implant cases while decreasing both cancellation rates and patient attrition.
- Featured clients local and national news, and combined with NPS Inc.'s interview series, established and branded these clients as local "celebrities".
- Established re-activation and production systems that have resulted in "hard-to-get" patients back in the chair, even when their insurance has run out.

# Lessons Learned at the School of Hard Knocks

- Only people action counts!
- Respect the truth: What work and what doesn't
- Feedback not failure, Test & Track
- Separating fallacy and emotions from fact

Result: Installed systems generating new patient flow every month in dental offices across North America

# What we are up against New Economy Challenges

- "New Economy": economic, technological and psychological changes
- Since the 2008 financial crisis, we are in a strange place
- Change is the only constant now and it's accelerating

There are 8 New Economy Challenges, Here's how they block new patient flow

#### 1.Trust

Too many footballs being pulled



- \*Financial crisis, bad marketing
- \*3<sup>rd</sup> party pollution

Takes longer to build and it's more fragile

#### 2. Boredom

We are used to being entertained at ALL TIMES

- Hate zero mental stimulus
- Everything is available \*instantly\*
   at our fingertips

Example: Movies from the 60's vs. now

# 8 New Economy Challenges 3. Clutter

Marketing everywhere. Everyone wants your attention.

"Each of us sees more ads alone in one year than people of 50 years ago saw in an entire lifetime. The average North American is exposed to 500 to 1,000 commercial messages a day (Arens 1999). That's anywhere from 182,500 to 365,000 commercial messages that a person will view this year alone." Direct Marketing News Magazine (12-22, 97)

### We are master marketing dodgers

#### 4. Overwhelm

- Too much advertising
- Too much going on in our lives
- It's just too much to think about

#### Easier to do nothing

#### 5. Resistance

- What "they" don't tell you
- Ignore it and you are pushing on a string
- 3 forms:
  - Reactance: Don't want to be sold (told to floss)
  - Skepticism: Wary of your proposal (treatment plan)
  - Inertial: Changes in what they believe/do/think

#### 6. Zero Tolerance

- a) Buyer's market
- b) Won't tolerate bad or rude.
- c) They will incite an online riot
- d) More choices: Find competition easily

#### 7. Fears

- Anticipated regret
- Option paralysis
- Fear of making a mistake
- Clinging onto money more tightly

#### 8. Conflicting interests & information:

- Gamblers
  - Generic dental marketing companies: spend \$8,000-\$100,000 on one direct mail campaign in advance
- Greedy
  - Media Company: as many dentists as they can cram
- Misinformation

## EFFECT: New Economy tilted the scale from sellers to buyers

How they look for dentists now:

- 1. They research you first
- 2. Best bang for their buck

#### The Undesired Truth

#### What the Dental Office Doesn't Want to See

- Most don't really care about the dentist
- Hard to get them excited
- It's not you: prevention is the hardest thing to sell
- Word of mouth happens slower
- Drives patient acquisition costs up

## All of these factors contribute to the lowering of new patient flow

(and more patients leaving out the backend)

Solution

Problem

Solution

How do you get new patients despite these hurdles...



Is it a hare with flair or is it Trump?

## <u>Dental Marketing Secret</u> Direct Response Marketing

## "Persuasion in Print"

## Common Marketing Belief

#### "Mad men" Advertising

- Coke does it, so we can too!
- Brand recognition, prestige, focus groups, awards
- No way to know if it's working

#### Not dental marketing!

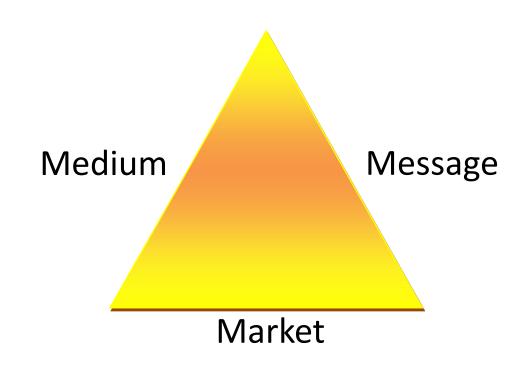


# Direct Response Marketing Get a response from the prospective new patient

Imagine if you had a dedicated soldier whose only mission is to seek out new patients for you.

Now imagine thousands of these soldiers dedicated to bringing you new patients every month.

# The Golden Triangle of Direct Response Marketing



#### The Market



#### Most Important

#### Girl Guide Example

- Girl Scout, age 13, setup outside of a San Francisco marijuana dispensary.
- Sold 117 boxes in just two hours!!

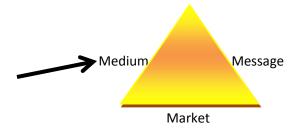


#### The Medium



#### Girl Guide Example 2

- Katie Francis of Oklahoma City asked literally everyone to buy
- sold 18,107 boxes in the sevenweek sales period



#### The Message

Persuasion in Print

A.I.D.A

**Attention** 

Interest

Desire

Action



- Message: what / how you say it matters
  - Example: Selling Christmas cards
    - "8 cards costs 3 dollars": 40% bought vs. "8 cards costs 300 pennies": doubled sales.
    - "Half cakes" outsold "cupcakes"

Message

Medium

Market

## The top 3 ads you've never heard of

- David Ogilvy
- Sold out entire inventory of **Rolls Royce**



The Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud-\$13,995

#### "At 60 miles an hour the loudest noise in this new Rolls-Royce comes from the electric clock"

What makes Rolls-Royce the best car in the world? "There is really no magic about itit is merely patient attention to detail," says an eminent Rolls-Royce engineer.

- 1. "At 60 miles an hour the loudest noise comes from the electric clock," reports the Technical Editor of THE MOTOR. Three mufflers tune out sound frequencies-acoustically.
- 2. Every Rolls-Royce engine is run for seven hours at full throttle before installation, and each car is test-driven for hundreds of miles over varying road surfaces.
- 3. The Rolls-Royce is designed as an ownerdriven car. It is eighteen inches shorter than the largest domestic cars.
- 4. The car has power steering, power brakes and automatic gear-shift. It is very easy to drive and to park. No chauffeur required.
- 5. The finished car spends a week in the final test-shop, being fine-tuned. Here it is subjected to 98 separate ordeals. For example, the engineers use a stethoscope to listen for axle-
- 6. The Rolls-Royce is guaranteed for three

- years. With a new network of dealers and parts-depots from Coast to Coast, service is no problem.
- 7. The Rolls-Royce radiator has never changed, except that when Sir Henry Royce died in 1933 the monogram RR was changed from red to black.
- 8. The coachwork is given five coats of primer paint, and hand rubbed between each coat, before nine coats of finishing paint go on.
- 9. By moving a switch on the steering column, you can adjust the shock-absorbers to suit road conditions.
- 10. A picnic table, veneered in French walnut, slides out from under the dash. Two more swing out behind the front seats.
- 11. You can get such optional extras as an Espresso coffee-making machine, a dictating machine, a bed, hot and cold water for washing, an electric razor or a telephone.

- 12. There are three separate systems of power brakes, two hydraulic and one mechanical. Damage to one system will not affect the others. The Rolls-Royce is a very safe car-and also a very lively car. It cruises serenely at eighty-five. Top speed is in excess of 100 m.p.h.
- 13. The Bentley is made by Rolls-Royce. Except for the radiators, they are identical motor cars, manufactured by the same engineers in the same works. People who feel diffident about driving a Rolls-Royce can buy a Bentley. PRICE. The Rolls-Royce illustrated in this advertisement-f.o.b. principal ports of entrycosts \$13,995.

If you would like the rewarding experience of driving a Rolls-Royce or Bentley, write or telephone to one of the dealers listed on the opposite page.

Rolls-Royce Inc., 10 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y., CIrcle 5-1144.

## The top 3 ads you've never heard of

- John Caples **Tested Advertising**
- 1926
- Sold hundreds of thousands on learning to play piano



#### They Laughed When I Sat Down At the Piano But When I Started to Play!~

A RTHUR had just played "The musician himself were speaking to me-speaking through the medium of music-not in words but in chords. Not in sentences but in exquisite melodies! a dramatic moment for me to make my debut. To the amazement of all my friends, I strode confidently over to the piano and sat down.

"Jack is up to his old tricks," somebody chuckled. The crowd laughed. They were all certain that I couldn't play

"Can he really play?" I heard a girl whisper to Arthur.

"Heavens, no!" Arthur exclaimed-"He never played a note in all his life. . . But just you watch him. This is going to

I decided to make the most of the situation. With mock dignity I drew out a silk handkerchief and lightly dusted off the piano keys. Then I rose and gave the revolving piano stool a quarter of a turn, just as I had seen an imitator of Paderewski do in a vaudeville sketch.

"What do you think of his execution?" called a voice from the rear.

"We're in favor of it!" came back the answer, and the crowd rocked with

#### Then I Started to Play

Instantly The laughter died on the greats. The laughter died on their lips as if by market. The laughter died on their lips as if by market. The laughter died on their lips as if by market. The laughter died on their lips as if by market limited in the laughter died on the laughter

I played on and as I played I forgot the people around me. I forgot the hour, the around me. I forgot the hour, the place, the breathless listners. The little world I lived in seemed to grow dim—unreal. Only the music was real. Only the music visions in brought me. Visions as the wind blown clouds and drifting moon-louds and drifting moon-light that long ago inspired the master composer. It weemed as if the master

#### A Complete Triumph!

As the last notes of the Moonlight Sonata died away, the room resounded with a sudden reactive faces. How my friends carried on! Men shook my hand—wildly congratulated memounded me on the back in their enthusiasm with rapid questions. "Jack! Why didn't you tell us you could play like that?". "Where did you learn!"—"How long have you studied!"—"Who oas your teacher!"

"I have never even seen my teacher," I replied, "And just a short while ago I couldn't play a note." "Quit your kidding," laughed Arthur, himself an accomplished pianist. "You've been studying for years. I can tell."

"I have been studying only a short while," insisted. "I decided to keep it a secret so that could surprise all you folks." Then I told them the whole story

"Have you ever heard of the U. S. School of Music?" I asked. A few of my friends nodded. "That's a correspondence school, isn't it?" they exclaimed.

"Exactly," I replied. "They have a new simplified method that can teach you to play any instrument by mail in just a few months."

#### How I Learned to Play Without a Teacher

Pick Your Instrument

And then I explained how for years I had longed to play the piano.

"A few months ago." I continued. "I saw an interest in the form of the U. S. School of saw an interest in the form of the U. S. School of the saw and the saw and the U. S. School of the saw and the saw and the U. S. School of the piano in the saw and the U. S. School of the piano in the saw and the U. S. School of the piano in the saw and the piano in the saw and the U. S. School of the U. S. School

the leasons continued they got easier and easier. Before I knew it I was playing all the pieces I liked best. Nothing stopped me. I could play ballads or classical numbers or jazz, all with equal ease! And I never did have any special talent for music!!

#### Play Any Instrument

Play Any Instrument
You too, can now track yourself to be an accomplished musician—right at home—in half the usual time. You can't go wrong with this simble new method which has already shown 350,000 people how to play their favorite instrument. Forget that old-fashioned idea that you need specific that old-fashioned idea that you need specific and the ranel, decide which one you want to play and the LU. S. School will do the rest. And bear in mind no matter which instrument you choose, the cost in each case will be the same—just a few cents a day. No matter whether you are a mee beginner already a good of the cost of the

#### Send for Our Free Booklet and Demonstration Lesson

Thousands of successful students never dreamed they possessed musical ability until it was revealed to them by a remarkable "Musical Ability Test" which we send entirely without cost with our in-teresting free booklet.

If you are in earnest about wanting to play your favorite instrument—if you really want to gain happiness and increase your popularity—end at once for the free booklet and Demonstration Lesson. No cost— no obligation. Right over a making a Special offer for the free work of the control of t

U.	s.	School of	Music,	N	Vork	City.

Please send me your free book, "Music Lessons in Your Own Home", with introduction by Dr. Frank Crane, Demonstration Lesson and particulars of your Special Offer. I am interested in the follow-

so convincing that I filled out the coupon requesting the Free	
Demonstration Lesson.	Have you above instrument?
"The free book arrived prompt- ly and I started in that very night to study the Demonstration Lesson. I was amazed to see how easy it was to play this new	Name(Please write plainly)
"When the course arrived I	Address
found it was just as the ad said - as easy as A.B.C.! And, as	CityState

# The top 3 ads you've never heard of

- Wall Street Journal
- Simple letter sold millions of subscriptions of WSJ

#### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The daily diary of the American Dream.

22 Cortlandt Street/New York, New York 10007

#### Dear Reader:

On a beautiful late spring afternoon, twenty-five years ago, two young men graduated from the same college. They were very much alike, these two young men. Both had been better than average students, both were personable and both—as young college graduates are—were filled with ambitious dreams for the funce.

Recently, these men returned to their college for their 25th reunion.

They were still very much alike. Both were happily married. Both had three children. And both, it turned out, had gone to work for the same Midwestern manufacturing company after graduation, and were still there.

But there was a difference. One of the men was manager of a small department of that company. The other was its president.

#### What Made The Difference

Have you ever wondered, as I have, what makes this kind of difference in people's lives? It isn't always a native intelligence or talent or dedication. It isn't that one person wants success and the other doesn't.

The difference lies in what each person knows and how he or she makes use of that knowledge.

And that is why I am writing to you and to people like you about The Wall Street Journal. For that is the whole purpose of The Journal: To give its readers knowledge—knowledge that they can use in business.

#### A Publication Unlike Any Other

You see, The Wall Street Journal is a unique publication. It's the country's only national business daily. Each business day, it is put together by the world's largest staff of business-news experts.

Each business day, The Journal's pages include a broad range of information of interest and significance to business-minded people, no matter where it comes from. Not just stocks and finance, but anything and everything in the whole, fast-moving world of business... The Wall Street Journal gives you all the business news you need—when you need it.

#### Knowledge Is Power

Right now, I am reading page one of The Journal. It combines all the important news of the day with in-depth feature reporting. Every phase of business news is covered, from articles on inflation, wholesale prices, car prices, tax incentives for industries to major developments in Washington, and elsewhere.

(over, please)

## Simple Example – What You Say

Ex. New patient newsletter

Before: 1 dental article, lots of space

3 new patients out of 10,000

After: Added direct response marketing devices

12 new patients out of 10,000 a 300% increase



#### "This ad looks ugly and will not work"

## "Are You Tired of Crooked Teeth But Can't Afford Braces?

or some, according to Dr. ??, general dentist, straightening their teeth with braces is outside their budget. "Some people are embarrassed by their crooked teeth but couldn't afford the high up front cost of braces," says Dr. ??. "That's why I'm offering affordable payment terms with low down payments to fit anyone's budget." Dr. ?? currently offers braces ?? until Aug. 28-Call his office today at ???-????

--

- \* Ran for several years until completely exhausting
  - \* Generated dozens of calls a month for braces
    - \* Calls came in even when ad wasn't running
  - \* People were referring others based on the ad

## "No one will read this"

- Took existing promotion and "Apple"fied it
- •18% response (unheard of)
- Cut down cancellations
- Reactivated patients that havent' responded to recall attemps in YEARS
- More than tripled crowns and bridges cases
- •Brought in tens of thousands of dollars in creased production.
- People called to move up their appointments
- New patients

Patient Address

I'm writing to tell you about a rare opportunity for you and your family that ends August 11.

Dear NAME and family,

Can you do me a favour?

Please have a look at your teeth. I want to know if you see any discolouration, stains, grayish or yellowish colour.

Do you feel your teeth could be whiter? Well, you won't believe this: We have put together a special whitening package especially for you and your family. It is guaranteed to keep you smiling for the rest of your life. I'll explain.



You see, the problem with professional whitening is twofold: 1. Some people say it is too expensive and 2. You have to give up coffee, tea and anything else that stains your teeth forever to keep them white. This can be unrealistic unless you have your teeth whitened every time you are here.

And because one whitening session is \$350 or more each time, whitening for the rest of your life would cost you thousands. Well, what if you could have whiter teeth the rest of your life, not for thousands, hundreds or even \$100...What if it was only \$97 flat onetime fee?

Not per month, year or anything like that. Just pay once and every time you come in for your hygiene appointment, you would get whitening for free and not have to worry about giving up your fayourite drinks, foods or anything else.

And this isn't the obviously low-cost whitening you find in the stores. This is the stronger, faster acting whitening that you can only get from a dental office.

Imagine how you would feel with whiter teeth the rest of your life? It's hard to miss...as soon as you smile and people see your whiter teeth, you'll command instant attention. It's infectious...not only will they rave about you, they will start to smile too, and then everyone feels good. All this, while you continue to enjoy your favourite foods and drinks.

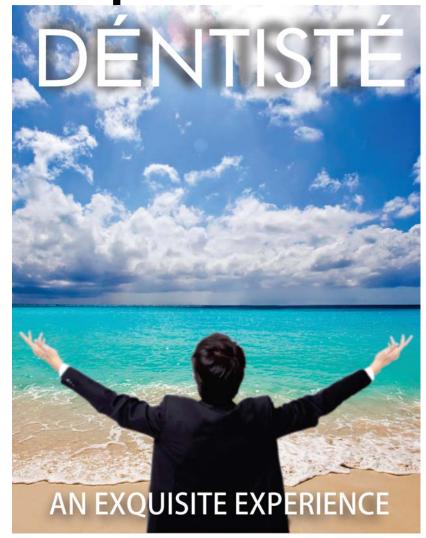
So what's the catch? There are 3 and a half, and they are quite reasonable.

Please turn over →

"I want designer marketing that brings in new patients"

NO!

Your patients will resent you



The relationship with your patient is your pillar. That should be communicated. That is your marketing.

#### 1 MILLION DOLLAR LESSON:

## DON'T DO WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING!

Especially if they are failing at it

#### Get as Many New Patients as we Can

 Most offices have one pillar supporting their new patient flow (referrals)



←Look how ridiculous this looks!

Easy to destroy new patient flow dries up

#### Get as Many New Patients as we Can

2 pillars (walkby's, referrals) better but still unstable



←Still weird looking

2 Pillars are better but still easy to destroy



#### Get as Many New Patients as we Can

4 pillars (referrals, walk-by, yellow pages, occasional flyer)



← Now we are talking! 4 Pillars starting to become stable and supported.

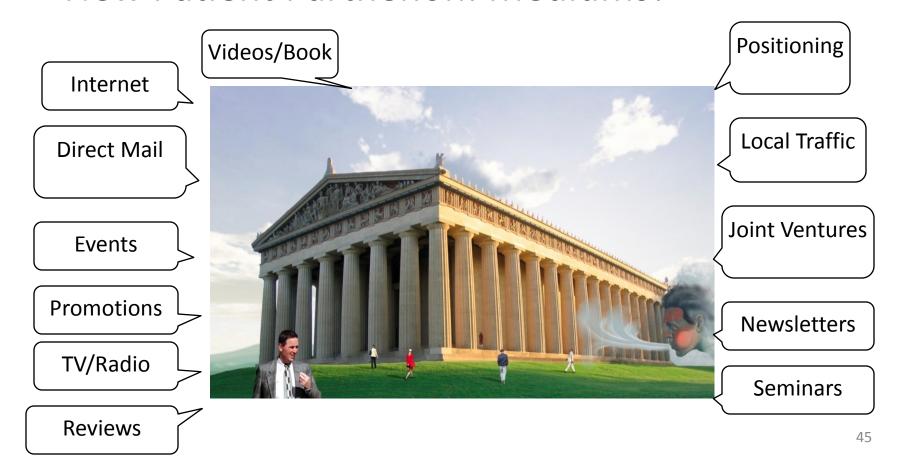


4 pillars are hard to destroy, but still can break, collapsing your new patient flow



## Secret to massive flow of new patients: New Patient Parthenon

- Most Stable of all –Parthenon 2,444 years
- New Patient Parthenon: Mediums!



#### Secret to massive flow of new patients: **New Patient Parthenon**

New Patient Parthenon: Markets!

Referrals

Cowards

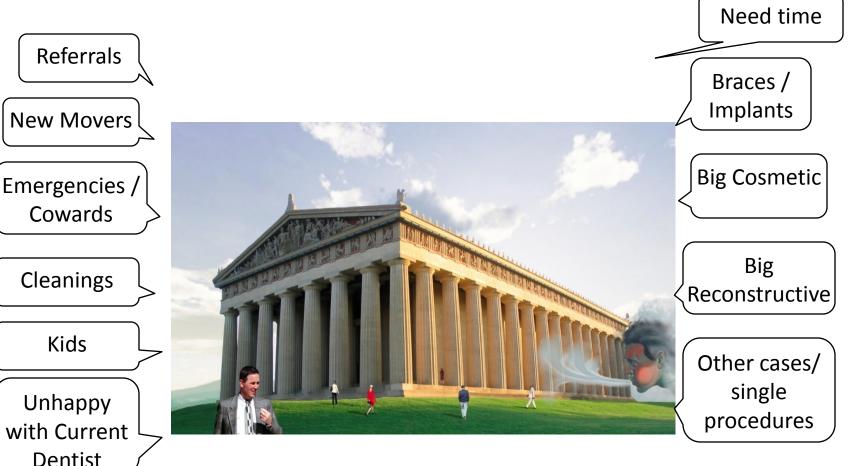
Cleanings

Kids

Unhappy

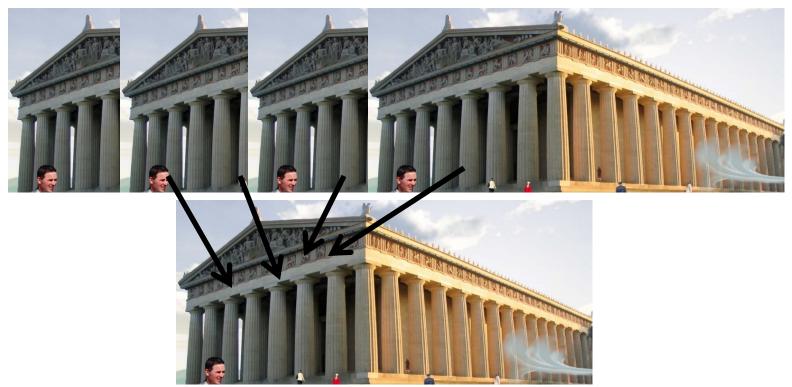
with Current

**Dentist** 



### Secret to massive flow of new patients: New Patient Parthenon

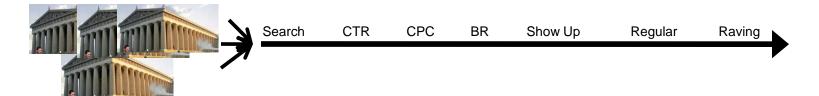
Each pillar of one parthenon has multiples



Predictable, steady, increase to new patient flow

## Systems on top of systems

#### MAXIMIZE MONTHLY NEW PATIENT FLOW FORMULA



#### SO....WE NEED TO RAMP UP LEADS

"N" umber of prospective new patient leads

X

"B"ooking "R"atio (%)

N x BR = Monthly New Patient Flow

#### A LOT OF WORK to get ONE BOOKING!

#### What can we do now:

- Most leads
- Shortest amount of time

#### The Internet

#### Why?

- Standing in front of people looking for a dentist at that moment
- 2. Automation
- 3. Lowest cost per patient acquisition
- 4. It's how people find a dentist now

#### Where to Start

#### **Dominate The Core 3**

- 1. Google Reviews
- 2. Google Advertisements
  - 3. Google Search Engine Optimization

Why? Remember A.I.D.A?

## The Core 3: Internet Strategies



★★★★★ 92 Google reviews

#### **Google Reviews**

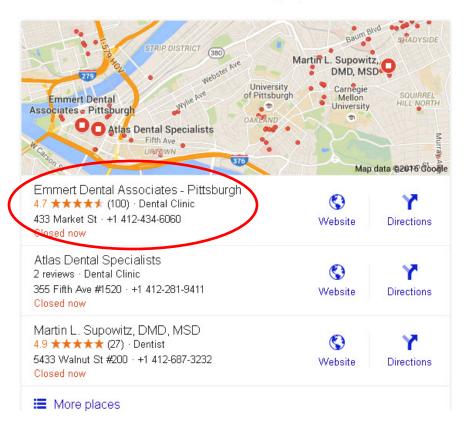
- Trusted
- Show up in search
- One of 7 persuasion factors

About 16,400,000 results (0.53 seconds)

#### Affordable Dentistry - 20% Off General Dentistry M www.aspendental.com/Dentist \* Print Your Offer Today & Save. Free New Patient Exam · Online Appt Scheduling · Peace of Mind Promise

9 306 Towne Square Way, Brentwood - +1 412-530-5208 - Closed now · Hours ▼

Dental Services Find an Office Near Me Schedule an Appointment Emergency Dental Care



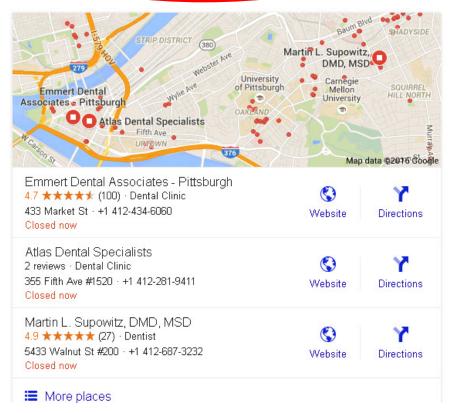
## The Core 3: Internet Strategies



#### **Google Ads**

- Trusted
- Show up in search
- Funnel the new patient
- Services





## The Core 3: Internet Strategies

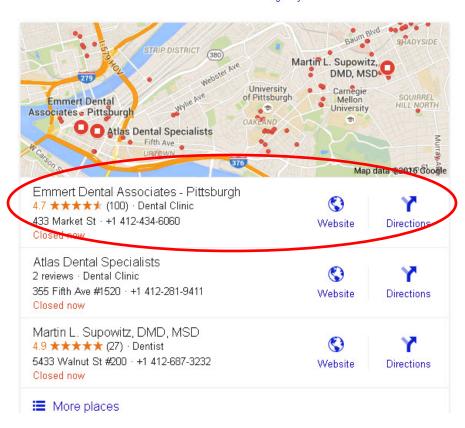


#### **Google SEO**

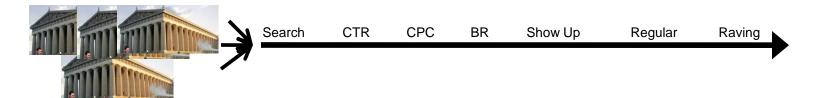
- Get to #1
- Multiple Listings
- Dominate everything

About 16,400,000 results (0.53 seconds)

## Affordable Dentistry - 20% Off General Dentistry Ad www.aspendental.com/Dentist ▼ Print Your Offer Today & Save. Free New Patient Exam · Online Appt Scheduling · Peace of Mind Promise ▼ 306 Towne Square Way, Brentwood - +1 412-530-5208 - Closed now · Hours ▼ Dental Services Schedule an Appointment Find an Office Near Me Emergency Dental Care



#### MAXIMIZE MONTHLY NEW PATIENT FLOW FORMULA



"N"umber of times we are in front of a prospective new patient X

"B"ooking "R"atio (%)

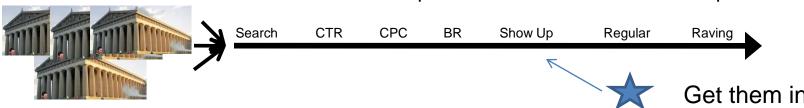
N x BR = Monthly New Patient Flow

SO....WE NEED TO RAMP UP LEADS.

Remember A.I.D.A?

## As many new patients as we Can Optimize the Chain – Fed from Parthenon Very few companies understand this

- 1. Searching for a new dentist and see our ad/site: Impressions
  - Need attention + new patient parthenon
- Clicks to our site: Click Through Ratio (CTR)
  - Need attention + Need catchy ad
- Clicks Per Call (CPC)
  - Need compelling reasons+ motivation
- 4. Booking ratio (BR)
  - Need staff training
- 5. Show ups
  - Need Positioning + staff training (Note: NS/LMC reduction)
- 6. Show up all the time
  - Great staff and doctor builds relationship
- 7. Raving fan patient: Refers family/friends
  - Great staff and doctor exceeds expectations and builds relationship



Remember what dental offices DON'T see?

# Where to Start Once the **Core 3** is setup New patient calls start to snowball as the Core 3 turns on and ramps up

Then we add more and more "pillars": D.M., Local Celebrity Authority

Growth is additive

## Concludes the intro strategy on getting new patients in the new economy.

Next topic:

**Advanced Strategies**