

CHANTIX™ A Miracle Pill

General dentists are on the front lines for advising patients about the dangers of smoking and using tobacco products. Patients who quit tobacco see benefits to both their oral health and their overall health. Many smokers want to quit but they don't know how - or don't even try.

CHANTIX™ (varenicline), a smoking cessation drug introduced in summer 2007 by Pfizer, has made headlines recently as an effective and highly successful means for quitting smoking. Dentists and many other healthcare professionals can prescribe it but first they need to know how it works and who should use it.

According to Pfizer's Web site, www.chantix.com, the drug contains no nicotine but targets and blocks the same receptors that nicotine does. CHANTIX™ can be prescribed to anyone over age 18, and studies performed using older patients have indicated that the drug is safe for geriatric patients (ages 65 to 75) who are in good health.



CHANTIX™
(varenicline) TABLETS
It's all about getting there.

Once the drug is prescribed, patients who are treated with CHANTIX™ begin the treatment plan by setting a short-term goal date as their "quit day." During the week before the quit day, patients begin taking low doses of CHANTIX™, beginning with 0.5 mg once per day. During that week, patients are allowed to smoke cigarettes or use tobacco products. On the quit day, patients begin taking 1.0 mg of CHANTIX™ twice per day. Patients take the drug for a total of twice per day. Patients take the drug for a total of 12 weeks (including the week before quitting). While patients are urged not to smoke during weeks 2 through 12, the Web site indicates that some patients may take longer than others to stop smoking completely.

