**Endodontic Therapy or Extraction/Dental Implant :**

**The Cracked Tooth Dilemma**

**Course Description:**

Cracked teeth are the third most common cause of tooth loss. In these cases, removal and dental implant placement becomes the most "conservative" option. The diagnosis of the cracked tooth can often be perplexing because of clinical and radiographic symptoms that mimic other pulpal conditions. In addition, the history of this pain and progression of symptoms can often, but not definitively, lead the clinician towards this diagnosis.  Studies demonstrate that most cracked teeth with reversible pulpitis can be properly restored without endodontic treatment. When a crack is suspected, guiding the patient to the proper treatment is paramount.  Is a cast restoration adequate?  Will endodontic treatment and a cast restoration be necessary or is an extraction the only option?  In addition, there are many clinical and radiographic finding which do not bode well for endodontic therapy and the patient should be counseled about implant replacement.  Clenching, bruxism, trauma, and other factors all play into this often difficult diagnosis.  This discussion will consider the variables that should be taken into consideration when making these decisions

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the signs and symptoms that may indicate the presence of a cracked tooth

2. Understand the treatment algorithm for diagnosing salvageable and non-salvageable teeth

3. Describe factors that may lead to the development of a cracked tooth

4. Describe treatment considerations for patients with a cracked tooth

5. Understand the tell-tale symptoms and radiographic findings which render a tooth hopeless for retention

Dr. Stern completed his post-doctoral endodontic residency at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. Prior to that, he graduated from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. He has presented at the AAE Annual Session and was awarded an award by the AAE for that presentation. He recently presented this topic at the Greater New York Dental Meeting in 2020.

Dr. Les Elfenbein graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Dental Medicine and completed his GPR at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He completed his endodontic training at the University of Pennsylvania. He maintains a private practice in Clifton, NJ. In addition, he is the Director of Endodontics at St. Joseph’s University Medical Center. Dr. has published several articles in the Journal of Endodontics and the journal of Dental Traumatology

Drs. Stern and Elfenbein practice at Clifton Endodontics with Dr Shalini Tewary and Dr Anthony Arena

