A review of the basic pharmacology and current concepts of local anesthetics in dental medicine.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

- Understand the basics of local anesthetic pharmacology to include:
  - Mechanism of Action
  - The impact of pH and pKa
  - Metabolism
  - Use in the pregnant/nursing patient
  - Use in the cardiac patient
  - Paresthesia

**JOSEPH M. VITOLO, DMD, MS, PHD,** earned his D.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1987. He went on to complete a General Practice Residency at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Vitolo then entered private dental practice in 1988. He returned to school in 1995 to pursue an M.S. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from The University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. Upon completing his advanced degrees in 2000, he entered a postdoctoral research fellowship at The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH) in the Gene Therapy and Therapeutics Branch. In 2004, Dr. Vitolo was hired by Marquette University School of Dentistry where he served as the Director of both the Advanced Care Clinic and the Director of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency program until 2016. He was then hired by The Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University where he currently serves as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Advanced Education.

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