

## DENTAL SLEEP MEDICINE NEWSLETTER

PATIENT AWARENESS FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE



## THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT OF SLEEP APNEA

## Why Treating Sleep Apnea is Crucial for Mental Health

Sleep apnea, a common sleep disorder characterized by repeated interruptions in breathing during sleep, is not just a physical health concern. It has significant implications for mental health as well.

### Sleep Apnea and Its Impact on Mental Health:

#### **Daytime Fatigue and Cognitive Function:**

The frequent disruptions in sleep caused by sleep apnea prevent the brain from entering the restorative stages of sleep.

**Mood Disorders:** Sleep apnea is closely linked with mood disorders such as depression and anxiety. Patients with sleep apnea are more likely to experience persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and irritability.

**Stress and Coping:** Living with untreated sleep apnea can be stressful. The constant struggle with fatigue, combined with the potential health risks, can take a toll on mental health.

### Managing Sleep Apnea for Better Mental Health:

**Oral Appliances:** Improves sleep quality and reduces daytime fatigue, which can positively impact mood and cognitive function.

**Mental Health Support:** Seeking support from mental health professionals can help manage the emotional and psychological aspects of sleep apnea.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices: Regular exercise, a balanced diet, and good sleep hygiene can improve both sleep apnea and mental health.

ASK US HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE A SLEEP WELLNESS CONSULTATION!



# POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH HABITS TO TRY AND MAINTAIN



#### **Connectedness**

Try to find some time during your week to connect with friends, colleagues, or family members.

#### **Staying Present**

Use mindfulness exercises to connect with the present moment.

#### Relaxation

Schedule time into your week to switch off and relax your mind and body.

#### **Physical Activity**

Where possible, try to stay active. Exercise is a great tool for boosting mood and reducing stress.



#### **Self Care**

Find activities that you can schedule into your week that provide you with a sense of self-care.

#### **Values**

Engage in activities that align with your values and are important to you.

#### **Talking**

Talk openly with close friends or family members about how you are feeling and what you are thinking.

#### **Achievements**

Engage in activities that provide you with both pleasure and a sense of accomplishment.

