



Santa Rosa, Calif.

March 12, 2006

Bonds vs. root canal

EDITOR: I suppose we could take Commissioner Bud Selig's cliched comment that he would rather have a root canal than speak with Barry Bonds as an indicator that his latest root canal was a pleasant experience. Unfortunately, many people still equate root canal treatment with pain.

The reality is that, today, millions of Americans save decayed and painful teeth with modern root canal treatment. Advances in anesthetics, sedatives and technology have made it the standard for treating teeth that otherwise would be lost. Selig's comment, while colloquial, does a disservice to people who are fearful of dental treatment by reinforcing their fears and helping them put off needed care.

I certainly would rather have a root canal than speak with Barry Bonds, but that's another story. What the real message should be is that root canal treatment in the 21st century is predictable and pain free. To imply otherwise is simply outdated and insensitive.

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