

**news**

## New study offers advances in laboratory-grown teeth

Dental Tribune International



In the study, researchers from King's College London and the University of London revealed the process of early tooth development in a laboratory setting using hydrogels they synthesised to simulate key features of the body's natural tooth development. These hydrogels allowed stem cells to interact and organise into tooth organs.

Last author Xuchen Zhang, a PhD student at the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral and Craniofacial Sciences at King's College London, said: "We believe that lab-grown teeth would naturally regenerate, integrating into the jaw as real teeth. They would be stronger, longer lasting and free from rejection risks, offering a more durable and biologically compatible solution than fillings or implants."

According to Zhang, while earlier approaches to tooth regeneration succeeded in forming tooth bud-like structures, the new study is the first to demonstrate the control needed to replicate the nuanced cellular interactions involved during natural tooth development. This new material, however, does not regenerate teeth in the same way as the cells to interact progressively, more closely mimicking how tooth development occurs in the body.

**Towards clinical application**

Having successfully established the conditions required for tooth development in the lab, the team is now working to translate the findings from the laboratory to clinical use in patients. To achieve this, they are exploring two main approaches: using the lab-grown teeth to regenerate directly at the site of the missing tooth to allow natural growth with the rest of the teeth, or using the lab-grown teeth in the laboratory before implanting in the patient's mouth.

The research forms part of a wider initiative in regenerative medicine, which seeks to harness the body's biological processes to repair or replace damaged tissues and organs. In addition to the work on lab-grown teeth, scientists are developing natural alternatives by culturing stem cells within carefully engineered biological environments.

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**Co-author Dr Ana Angelova Vojvoda, director of the postgraduate programme in regenerative dentistry at King's College London, commented:** "The development of this new material is an innovative technique holds the potential to revolutionise dental care, offering sustainable and effective solutions for tooth repair and regeneration."

**Editorial note:** The study, titled 'Generating tooth organs using defined biocerogel cross-linked hydrogels', was published in the December 2024 issue of *ACLS Macro Letters*.

**Xuchen Zhang (left) and Dr Ana Angelova Vojvoda.**

**Kuchen Zhang looking at teeth cells on a computer screen.**

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Topics include market reviews, business strategies, dental laboratory news and education on the newest developments in the field. User-oriented articles discuss economic aspects involved in running and sustaining modern dental laboratories. In addition, the publication provides advice on enhancing patient services and integrating state-of-the-art products as well as communication and marketing concepts.

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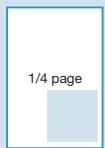
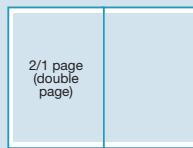
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<b>International</b>										
3D printing	2	10,000	42,000	English	6,750	5,450	3,650	3,150	2,350	3,950
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ceramic implants	2	10,000	65,000	English	upon request	5,450	3,650	3,150	2,350	—
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digital	2	10,000	65,000	English	6,750	5,450	3,650	3,150	2,350	3,950
implants	4	10,000	54,000	English	upon request	5,450	3,650	3,150	2,350	3,950
roots	1	10,000	31,000	English	6,750	5,450	3,650	3,150	2,350	3,450
<b>Regional</b>										
aligners										
Italy	1	1,000	23,000	Italian	6,750	3,950	2,950	1,950	1,450	—
CAD/CAM										
Italy	3	1,000	23,000	Italian	6,750	3,950	2,950	1,950	1,450	—
facial aesthetics										
Italy	1	1,000	23,000	Italian	6,750	3,950	2,950	1,950	1,450	—
implants										
Italy	2	1,000	23,000	Italian	6,750	3,950	2,950	1,950	1,450	—
U.S.	2	—	42,000	English	6,750	4,750	2,650	1,950	1,450	—
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U.S.	2	—	8,000	English	6,750	4,750	2,650	1,950	1,450	—
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[mediасales@dental-tribune.com](mailto:mediасales@dental-tribune.com)

+49 341 48474 100