Public satisfaction with NHS dental services at 20-year high

British Social Attitudes survey sees less discontent with public care

By DTI

LONDON, UK: People’s satisfaction with dental care provided by the National Health Service (NHS) has risen further in recent years, as shown in the latest British Social Attitudes survey conducted by the National Centre for Social Research in London. According to the figures, only less than one in five patients were discontent with the dentistry services last year.

The numbers reflect some of the highest levels of public satisfaction with these services since the early 1990s and are a dramatic improvement over figures in the early 2000s, which saw dissatisfaction rise to almost 38 per cent, the report said. More satisfaction was only observed for general practitioner services, which scored slightly better in the recent survey than dental services.

Overall, 65 per cent of those surveyed said they were satisfied with how the NHS is run today.

The British Dental Association hailed the results, saying that dentists should take real pride in what they have achieved despite government indifference, sustained underfunding and the barriers presented by the target-driven contract that still remains in place.

‘It’s a miracle NHS dentists have been able to overcome all the hurdles placed in front of us to do right by our patients. It shows what might be possible if this Cinderella Service received appropriate priority,’ commented BDA Principal Executive Committee Chair Mick Armstrong. ‘This profession can take pride in the fact that public satisfaction in NHS dentistry has hit a near 20-year high in spite of chronic underfunding and discredited contracts.’

The British Social Attitudes survey has been conducted among members of the British public since 1983. The latest survey was carried out between July and October 2016 and asked a nationally representative sample of nearly 3,000 people about their satisfaction with the NHS overall, as well as nearly 1,000 people about their satisfaction with individual NHS services.

Goodwill decreases owing to uncertainty in practice sales market

By DTI

KESWICK, UK: Despite a drop back in the average of goodwill as a percentage of fee income, both NHS and mixed practices have continued to attract a significant premium, according to the latest goodwill survey by the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers (NASDAL). Practices sold at an average of 126 per cent of fee income, with NHS practices attracting an even higher rate of 156 per cent, the figures demonstrate.

With an average of 101 per cent of goodwill as a percentage of fee income, private practices too have remained steady compared with previous quarters.

Goodwill decreases owing to uncertainty in practice sales market

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The goodwill figures are collected from accountant and lawyer members of NASDAL on a quarterly basis in order to provide a useful guide to the practice sales market.

“There seemed to be a general perception that the corporates, including mydentist, were buying up every practice across the country,” Suggest said. “Whilst this wasn’t true and mydentist was only responsible for a small percentage of sales, it does seem that their withdrawal may have led to a more general loss of confidence.”

“With a time lag between valuations and deals done, it will be interesting to see if the quarters to come will reflect the optimism of these high valuations when it comes to actually signing on the dotted line,” he added.

The goodwill figures are collected from accountant and lawyer members of NASDAL on a quarterly basis in order to provide a useful guide to the practice sales market.
Trouble for single-handed practices

By DTI

LONDON, UK: Profits of single-handed practices in the UK have slumped by almost 12 per cent in the last two years, indicating that the model may be a thing of the past. According to figures released in the latest Benchmarking Report by the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers (NASDAL), the average profit per principal in a single-handed practice was only slightly above £135,000 in 2016, compared with £159,752 in 2014.

In contrast, practices with associates achieved a net average profit per principal of £158,312 last year.

The problems, according to Ian Simpson, a chartered accountant and a partner in Humphrey & Co, which carries out the statistical analysis on behalf of NASDAL, could be linked to increasing costs in compliance and a general feeling among sole practitioners that they are unable to increase their fees. “As a ‘compliance culture’ continues unabated, the future will be difficult for those going it alone,” he commented regarding the figures.

“Whilst it is good news to see success for the majority of the sector, the increasing cost of compliance is a cause for concern,” added Nick Ledingham of Morris & Co, specialist dental accountants and Chairmen of NASDAL. “The arrival of Making Tax Digital will do nothing to allay dentists’ fears that they are victims of a system that doesn’t understand how they do business.”

Reflecting the finances of dental practices and dentists for the most recent tax year, NASDAL’s annual benchmarking statistics are gathered from its accountant members across the UK, who together act for more than a quarter of self-employed dentists. The findings also included an increase of average net profit per principal at NHS practices from £129,285 in 2015 to £135,102 in 2016 and a slight drop of average profits of associates of £68,024 to £67,389 in the same period.

Negative effects of dental phobia confirmed

By DTI

LONDON, UK: One in three adults in the UK are estimated to have a persistent fear of going to the dentist. The fact that the phobia can lead to more active caries and missing teeth has recently been confirmed by researchers at King’s College London Dental Institute. The findings were based on their analysis of data on thousands of Brits from the 2009 Adult Dental Health Survey with the aim of exploring common oral health conditions of those with dental phobia.

According to the study, people with dental phobia are more likely to have one or more decayed teeth, as well as missing teeth, in comparison with non-phobic people, as they avoid seeing a dentist on a regular basis to have potentially chronic, but preventable, oral conditions treated.

Most adults with dental phobia also preferred an immediate solution, such as extraction, instead of undergoing a long-term care plan, the paper also showed.

In addition to oral health, related quality of life was also poor among those with dental phobia, the researchers further noted, with a large majority showing a high impact on their physiological, psychological, social and emotional well-being, even when levels of dental disease were controlled.

“Other research has shown that individuals with dental phobia express negative feelings such as sadness, tiredness, discouragement and general anxiety, less vitality and more exhaustion,” explained King’s Dr Ellie Heidari, lead author of the study. “Embarrassment at their poor teeth will prevent them from smiling and showing their teeth.”

By providing phobic patients with a detailed at-home oral healthcare plan, dental practitioners could help reduce acute conditions with preventative care, the researchers recommended. A preventative programme for those with dental phobia, focusing on what can be done to help them avoid acute dental disease was confirmed by researchers at King’s College London Dental Institute. The findings were based on their analysis of data on thousands of Brits from the 2009 Adult Dental Health Survey, is to be published in the second April issue of the British Dental Journal. It was conducted among 11,900 participants, of whom just over 3,500 were considered to be dentally phobic.
Prevention One is a comprehensive business model for the modern dental practice. We provide a full 360° approach towards preventive and innovative oral care.

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Reduced peri-implantitis risk

Plymouth researchers successfully test effectiveness of a dual-layered silver–HA nano-coating on titanium alloy implants

By DTI

PLYMOUTH, UK: Investigating the effect of a new approach using a combination of silver, titanium dioxide and hydroxyapatite (HA) nano-coatings on the surface of titanium alloy implants, researchers from Plymouth have found that the method was successful in inhibiting bacterial growth and reducing the formation of bacterial biofilm. In addition, the coating created a surface with anti-biofilm properties, thus supporting successful integration of the implants into surrounding bone and accelerating bone healing.

One of the main reasons for dental implant failure is peri-implantitis, an inflammatory process affecting the soft and hard tissue surrounding dental implants caused by pathogenic microbes that develop into biofilms. Current approaches to managing the development of biofilms include application of antimicrobial coatings loaded with antibiotics or chlorhexidine. However, these are usually only short-term measures. In addition, chlorhexidine has been reported to be potentially toxic to human cells.

Investigating a new approach to the prevention of biofilm, researchers from the School of Biological Sciences, Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, and School of Engineering at the University of Plymouth tested the effectiveness of a dual-layered silver–HA nano-coating on titanium alloy medical implants. The antibacterial performance of the coating was quantitatively assessed by measuring the growth of Streptococcus suis, the proportion of live and dead cells, and lactate production by the microbes over 24 hours. The results showed that the combination successfully inhibited bacterial growth and reduced the formation of bacterial biofilm on the surface of the implants by 97.5 per cent. Uncoated controls and titanium dioxide nano-coatings showed no antibacterial effect.

According to the researchers, no dissolution was detected for the HA nano-coatings. Thus, application of a dual-layered silver–HA nano-coating on titanium alloy implants further created a surface with anti-biofilm properties without compromising the HA biocompatibility required for successful osseointegration and accelerated bone healing.

“In this cross-faculty study we have identified the means to protect dental implants against the most common cause of their failure. The potential of our work for increased patient comfort and satisfaction, and reduced costs, is great and we look forward to translating our findings into clinical practice,” commented Prof. Christopher Tredwin, Head of the Peninsula Dental School. In the next step, the effectiveness of the approach needs to be tested in vivo, according to the researchers.

The study, titled “Antibacterial activity and biofilm inhibition by surface modified titanium alloy medical implants following application of silver, titanium dioxide and hydroxyapatite nanocoatings”, was published online on 17 March in the Nanotoxicology journal.

Kings College dental researcher receives international honours

By DTI

SAN FRANCISCO, US: One of the world’s most important awards for research in dental medicine has been given to an academic from the UK. Prof. David Bartlett from King’s College London Dental Institute was presented with the Distinguished Scientist Award in Research in Prosthodontics and Implants at the recent General Session and Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) in San Francisco in the US.

With the award, one of the highest honours bestowed by the research association, Bartlett was recognised for outstanding research accomplishments, including conducting laboratory investigations and developing clinical techniques to measure erosive tooth wear in the prosthodontics field. Over the past 20 years, among other things, he conducted three large prevalence studies and collaborated internationally to publish the only systematic reviews on that particular topic in the literature.

He also published data from a study of 1,000 18- to 30-year-olds, together with an assessment of risk, and undertook a pan-European study of more than 3,500 participants to establish the risk factors of erosion.

Currently Head of Prosthodontics at King’s College London Dental Institute, Bartlett has developed teaching in the specialty to make it more relevant to modern general dental practice. He has also been instrumental in bringing teaching on implants to undergraduates and at a level that is consistent with the expectations of dental students, the institute said.

In addition to research in prosthodontics and implants, IADR honours research in 16 more categories, including periodontology and regenerative dentistry. The awards are sponsored by prominent dental companies, such as DenTply Sirona, DMG and Ullevier.

IADR held its recent meeting in conjunction with the 46th annual meeting of the American Association for Dental Research and the 45th annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research in March in San Francisco.

British dentist known as “World’s fittest old-age pensioner” dies at age 97

By DTI

LONDON, UK: Most people of advanced age tend to prefer activities like gardening or watching TV. Not Dr Charles Eugster; just last year the 97-year-old Brit broke the 200 m world record in the over-95s age group. This week, the “World’s fittest old-age pensioner” and veteran dental surgeon died due to complications after heart failure, according to his publicist.

In addition to the 200 m record he broke at the 2016 British Masters Indoor Championships in London, Eugster holds the 400 m record and several long-jump records for his age group. Recently, he competed at the World Masters Athletics Championships Indoor in Daegu in South Korea.

Born in London just after World War I, he graduated with a dental surgery degree from Guy’s Hospital in 1948. In addition to this, he obtained degrees from universities in Zurich in Switzerland, where he also temporarily worked as a clinical instructor, Heidelberg in Germany and Chicago in the US. Eugster was in private practice until 1975 and continued to publish a newsletter on clinical dentistry in three languages for three decades after his retirement.

Earlier this year, he published his first book, Age is Just a Number. He gave his last interview on ITV’s This Morning programme, during which he criticised the way ageing is treated in today’s society and spoke out in favour of lifelong learning.

“When, along with everyone who knew Charles, are incredibly sad to lose such a truly inspirational figure,” his publicist said on Facebook. “He has, by remarkable example, how fantastic life can be in older age. It has been a privilege to work with and learn from Charles.”
Dental technicians could be at higher risk of mesothelioma

By DTI

MILAN, Italy: Dental technicians could be at an increased risk of developing asbestos-related cancer, Italian researchers have suggested. According to their study results, past exposure to materials formerly used in the manufacture of dental prostheses could trigger the much-later development of malignant mesothelioma, a type of cancer that most often affects the pulmonary pleurae and less commonly the peritoneum.

Asbestos, a proven cause of cancer, was a widely used material in construction products, especially in the 1960s and 1970s. In dentistry, it was used as a binder in periodontal dressings and as lining material for casting rings and crucibles.

The Italian researchers, experts in environmental science and occupational health, conducted an analysis of more than 5,000 pleural mesothelioma patients between 2000 and 2014. They found four subjects whose only exposure to asbestos had been in their work as dental technicians.

“Three men had been working as dental laboratory technicians, with asbestos exposure for 10, 34, and 4 years, and one woman had been helping her husband for 30 years in manufacturing dental prostheses,” wrote the study authors, among them Dr Carolina Mensi, from the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda of the Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, a scientific institute for research, hospitalisation and health care at the Milan hospital. The men described the use of asbestos as a lining material for casting rings, while the woman was not able to confirm the use.

Dental technicians who worked with asbestos in the past may have inhaled microscopic fibres of the carcinogenic material, and this could trigger the development of mesothelioma in later years.

The study, titled “Pleural malignant mesothelioma in dental laboratory technicians: A case series”, was published ahead of print on 13 April 2017 in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine.
European Parliament adopts new medical device regulations

By DTI

BRUSSELS, Belgium: The European Parliament has voted to implement two new regulations concerning medical devices with the aim of improving safety in medicine and dentistry. The regulations were proposed in 2012 by the European Commission and experienced several delays before being officially endorsed earlier this month. They will be applied after a transitional period of three years from publication for medical devices and five years for in vitro diagnostic medical devices. Publication is expected to take place shortly in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Though the rules regarding the safety and performance of medical devices were standardised throughout the EU in the 1990s, significant progress in technology rendered these standards in need of updating. In addition, manufacturers could interpret the three existing directives on medical devices—which will be replaced by these regulations—in different ways, thereby creating inconsistencies in adherence to these rules. The new regulations aim to remedy this by ensuring that this progress and innovation continue in a way that is beneficial to the safety of all involved.

At the same time, smaller and medium-sized companies are facing the challenge of meeting the new requirements for clinical data, new legal requirements and certifications for all dental products.

Some of the main elements of the regulations include:

- Stricter measures on the quality, safety and performance of devices released into the marketplace, with a particular emphasis on perceived high-risk devices
- A scrutiny mechanism for Class III implants and Class IIb active products
- The introduction of a comprehensive database for medical devices sold in the EU (EUDAMED), to be set up by 2020 at the latest
- Higher requirements for clinical data and technical documentation before and after placement of the respective product on the market
- A universal device identification system that will permit medical devices to be traced more easily
- An implant card that will be given to patients so that they, along with medical professionals, have access to information about any implants they receive
- A set of guidelines for providing appropriate financial recompense to patients for faulty products (the payment will vary according to the risk class and type of device, as well as the size of the company that manufactures the device, and will ideally expedite the remunerative process)
- Guidelines for manufacturers of substances that are carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction, as well as substances that can disrupt the endocrine system, to provide alternative and less harmful products.

The regulations will be applicable in each of the EU member states and aim to provide a clearer framework regarding device standards to patients, professionals, and relevant domestic and international regulatory bodies. A Medical Device Coordination Group, formed of experts from member states and chaired by the European Commission, will be established to help organise and enforce the correct implementation of these regulations.

In addition, conformity assessment procedures by notified bodies—intrnational organisations that evaluate medium- and high-risk devices—will continue to be performed through joint assessments conducted with the assistance of other member states.
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Hahn Tapered Implant is a trademark of Prismatik Dentalcraft, Inc.
Continuing acquisition will be a strategy for larger key competitors

An interview with Jeff Wong, Strategic Analyst Manager at iData

The ever-progressing digitalisation, changing regulations and a tendency towards mergers are currently shaping the dental industry. At the International Dental Show (IDS) in Cologne, Dental Tribune met with Jeff Wong, Strategic Analyst Manager at international medical market research and consulting firm iData, to talk about how—major and emerging—competitors have reacted to these trends.

Dental Tribune: Digitalisation is one of the main trends that is changing the industry. Other than that, what developments are dominating the dental market?

Jeff Wong: Yes, digitalisation is still the up-and-coming trend and everybody is trying to get into that market now. On the product side, I would say it is 3-D printing and intra-oral scanning. Three or four years ago, there was only a handful of competitors in both of those areas. This year at IDS, almost everybody was presenting some new product in these fields—knowing how fast these markets develop, everybody wants to participate.

What consequences will this have for the market in general?

Especially in these two areas, where the level of imitation is high, with so many competitors, it will definitely start diluting the market shares among the existing companies. However, if these participants start focusing on specific regions or niche audiences, I think there will still be a great deal of benefit.

What about the recent merger trend—is that something we will see more of in the future?

From what we have seen in other industries, we definitely predict that the trend will continue. Of course, there will always be a couple of smaller companies that will end up becoming fairly large themselves and remain independent. However, we expect that many of the successful emerging companies will be acquired at some point. One advantage that the larger competitors have is the amount of resources they have. They can always stay ahead of the curve if they see somebody come to the market with something unique, they have the resources to quickly develop a product of their own.

What role do the emerging markets play? What regions will become more significant in the future?

Regarding digital dentistry, I would say much of the development is linked to implantology and prosthetics. The key countries where those areas are big as well are Brazil and Italy. Even though the penetration of digital dentistry might be relatively higher in those areas compared with others, I would say they have the greatest opportunities for growth.

What are the main trends in implantology?

In terms of implants, dozens of new companies are popping up every year, but many are also either acquired or close down. There are definitely certain regions that are experiencing a great deal of growth, for example many Asian countries. At the same time, traditional markets such as Italy, Brazil and the US are doing very well. These markets are well penetrated at this point, so in terms of market growth it will definitely slow down. However, there is still substantial growth opportunity for the lower-priced competitors, while the traditional premium brands will see considerable competition from other markets.

Do you think this will lead to these companies buying local competitors? Or what will their strategy to succeed be?

I think the strategy of most of the larger key competitors will be regional regulations changing from country to country—are being forced to acquire new companies in order to be able to operate in the region.

So, you are saying that larger companies are looking for smaller businesses to acquire in order to bring new technology to market?

Not only on the technology side, but also to compete on the pricing level as well.

In the current political climate, the Chairman of the Association of the German Dental Industry has issued a warning about protectionism and trade barriers. What are companies doing in this regard?

At this stage, I think, companies are mainly waiting to see what will happen. Nevertheless, in light of what is happening in other industries regarding the whole Brexit issue—for example, European Union chief’s have warned airlines, including easyJet and Ryanair, to relocate their headquarters to the EU if they wish to continue their routes within continental Europe after the Brexit—if that can happen in the airline industry, who is to say it cannot happen in the dental industry? Again, for example in Mexico, which has a major dental tourism industry, if that is going to be affected in terms of procedural volumes, it is definitely going to affect the dental manufacturers as well.

Thank you very much for the interview.

© Kristin Huebner, DDS

THERE’S MORE TO THIS...

...THAN MEETS THE EYE
What would Dr Mo Lar do? Part 2
Financial and legal aspects of becoming an associate

By 4dentists, UK

Over the course of this n-part series, the 4dentist group will explore ways to tackle a number of personal and professional challenges by providing advice and guidance to fictional character Dr Mo Lar. In this second article, they will be looking at the financial and legal aspects of becoming an associate.

Previously, we looked at how Lar should approach his foundation training year, with focus placed on how to find a job, student loan repayments, and the importance of taking out the correct insurance. In many ways, becoming an associate dentist is not so very different from finding and working in a graduate role—after all, Lar still has to find a job and organise his finances. Saying that, becoming an associate requires a great deal more organisation than stepping into a role straight out of university.

The next level

Completing foundation training and becoming an associate is a rite of passage for every dentist. For Lar, it is an opportunity to find a role within NHS dentistry where he can complete some private work too. In an ideal world, he would like to work around ten NHS sessions per week so that he continues to develop his clinical skills (development that will help with increasing his private list in the future). As part of the process of becoming an associate is figuring out what you want from the role, Lar, in many ways, is a step ahead. Indeed, knowing which roles you want to apply for can make searching for vacancies much easier.

If Lar wants to finds the best position in a suitable practice, however, in an easy and methodical manner, he would do well to utilise the services of a recruitment agency like careers4dentists to support him through the various recruitment processes. On some occasions, dentists are offered the opportunity to stay on in the practice where they have completed their foundation training, but as this is not a given, the necessary steps should always be taken to avoid disappointment.

Being self-employed

Undertaking an associate role is usually done on a self-employed basis, and it is for that reason that this stage of a dentist’s career is much more complicated than becoming a foundation dentist. For Lar, his first move would need to be the negotiation of his associate agreement with his employer—a particularly pertinent move when you consider that these agreements have recently come under fire in light of the highly publicised Uber case. As a self-employed associate, employment rights, such as paid holiday, sick leave and maternity/paternity leave do not apply, nor does he or she have the protection of anti-discrimination legislation, so it is essential that these areas be detailed in the agreement. For optimum results, associates are advised to seek legal advice from specialist lawyers. The other legal aspect that all associates such as Lar should give thought to is insurance—not only his own occupation cover in case of sickness (which will be crucial in ensuring he can maintain his outgoings), but also indemnity insurance to protect against day-to-day risks and potential claims made by patients.

In addition to this, there are responsibilities pertaining to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) that would need to be taken into consideration. As soon as Lar has finalised the details of his contract and agreement, he would need to register with HMRC. There are time frames with this part of the process, so all associates must contact HMRC as soon as possible. Failure to comply can result in a fine. Once Lar’s records are set up, he will receive a letter with a ten-digit reference—otherwise known as a unique taxpayer reference—which he will need to complete a self-assessment tax return each year.

Completing the self-assessment tax return can be a bit of a headache, but as long as Lar maintains accurate books and records on his income and expenditure, the whole process is relatively straightforward. As a new associate, Lar would also be advised to open a new business bank account to ensure that all business and private transactions are kept separate. Should he need additional help, accountants dentists offers a number of services that would need to be taken to avoid disappointment.

Lastly, Lar should consider how he intends to handle his money—he is, after all, about to go from earning £30,000 to in excess of £100,000. As he intends to purchase his first home, it would be prudent for him to meet with an independent financial adviser, such as those at money4dentists, who can advise him on savings and investment opportunities.

Altogether, there are a great many aspects to becoming an associate, but done right, you can rest assured that you are prepared for the role, protected against potential risks and in control of your finances.
Apical transportation

Microsurgical handling of a procedural error during apical mechanical preparation

Prof. Leandro A.P. Pereira, Brazil

Endodontics is the dental specialty that is concerned with treating or preventing pulpal pathologies and apical periodontitis. The main objectives of endodontic treatment are to clean and disinfect the entire length of the root canal system up to a healthy level. When, through meticulous treatment, such objectives are achieved, success rates can exceed 94 per cent. In pursuit of such results, during endodontic therapy, mechanical preparation is carried out with endodontic instruments and chemical preparation with irrigating solutions.

After cleaning and shaping, endodontic filling must be performed to fill three-dimensionally and seal the endodontic space in order to prevent bacterial recontamination, maintaining the sanitation conditions achieved through the previous steps. The mechanical preparation of the root canal system is of utmost importance in the process of establishing endodontic sanitation. It is responsible for physically removing the infected dentine and, consequently, bacteria located within the dentinal tubules. In addition, it increases the diameter and shapes the main canals, facilitating flow of larger volumes of irrigating solutions to the apical third. It also creates a favourable conical shape for endodontic filling. Therefore, it directly influences the quality of the disinfection process and, consequently, the prognosis of the case.

Procedural errors during mechanical preparation may make it impossible to achieve the required disinfection levels. Youssuf et al. evaluated 1,248 endodontically treated teeth using digital radiography and found procedural errors in 32.8 per cent (1,314 teeth) of them. Transportation of the apical foramen, whether leading to root perforation or not, is among the most common errors during endodontic treatment, especially in curved canals.

The Glossary of Endodontic Terms by the American Association of Endodontists defines "canal transportation" as "Removal ofca

Insufficient cleaning of canals, especially the apical third, predisposes treatment to endodontic failure. Transportation of the foramen may not only impair disinfection of the canal system by disabling access to its original trajectory, but also irritate the periapex by extruding bacteria and their by-products and derail the ideal apical adjustment of a gutta-percha cone. These technical hindrances due to operational error in the preparation phase can negatively influence apical sealing and communication with the periapical space.

Clinical case

A 55-year-old female patient (American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Status Class I) visited the dental office complaining about spontaneous, constant pain, exacerbated during mastication and apical palpation in the region of teeth #13 and #11, which had been treated endodontically over the course of the last three months. The patient reported that she did not feel pain before the initial endodontic treatment began. After
the first endodontic session, during which teeth #13 and #11 were treated at the same time, the pain began and had worsened after the third day. On the fourth day, the patient had to receive intravenous dipyridamole and ketoprofen to control the pain. Concurrent with the systemic medication, an occlusal adjustment was performed. After two days, the pain returned and the patient went to another dentist, who administered sodium dipyridamole 50 mg/mL every four hours and nimesulide 100 mg every 12 hours orally for seven days. The pain decreased, but did not cease.

Two days after systemic medication ended, the patient again felt pain. She went to a third dental professional, who initiated endodontic retreatment of teeth #11 and #13. However, the therapy performed was not able to control the pain effectively. After four days, the patient also began showing febrile conditions. It was reported that, in none of the endodontic procedures performed, was absolute sealing achieved.

Clinical examination established endodontic access at teeth #13 and #11. Inadequate geometric configuration of endodontic access already suggested problems in chemical-mechanical preparation of the root canal system (Figs. 1 & 2). Endodontic therapy was begun in teeth #13 and #11, and transportation of the foramina Type III was radiographically observed. On tooth #12, there was a full crown, a metallic intra-radicular retainer and signs of a poor endodontic treatment (Fig. 3). On the C1 scan, it was possible to visualise the transportation of the foramina of the two teeth (Figs. 4 & 5).

Owing to the severe apical deviation of teeth #11 and #13, the recommended treatment was endodontic retreatment, complemented by an apical microsurgery. Treatment of tooth #12 was also needed through cleaning, shaping and disinfection of the canal system with consequent endodontic filling. However, as the prosthetic crown of this tooth was adapted and microsurgery was already planned for the neighbouring teeth, the decision was to perform a retrograde endodontic treatment.

Treatment was initiated with the endodontic retreatment of tooth #11, followed by that of tooth #13. The canals were irrigated with 2.5% sodium hypochlorite, followed by 17% EDTA, both with passive ultrasonic irrigation and prepared with RECIPRO20 (VDW). Using an operating microscope and periapical radiographs, it was possible to visualise the apical deviation of tooth #11; however, it was not possible to follow the original trajectory (Figs. 6 & 7). The same occurred with tooth #13. Owing to the great irregularity of the walls of the canals after transportation of the foramina, it was not possible to perform the proper locking of a gutta-percha cone. For this reason, the decision was to perform an apical cap of 4 mm with MTA Repair HP cement (Angelus; Fig. 8). The filling of the rest of the canals was performed using thermo-plasticised gutta-percha with MTA Fillapex cement (Angelus). MTA Fillapex contains particles of MTA in its composition.

After the end of this stage, the patient underwent apical microsurgery, during which the apical area corresponding to the apical isthmus region was removed with a piezoelectric instrument and a W1 tip (CVDentus). On tooth #12, a piezoelectric apicectomy was performed, and the canal was retro-prepared to the depth corresponding to the apex of the molten metal core present. After drying the canal with a surgical suction pump coupled to a vacuum pump, the procedure continued with retrofilling using MTA Repair HP (Figs. 9–11).

MTA has been the material of choice for sealing perforations, retrograde preparations and apexes with irregular, not circular, morphology due to root resorption or incorrect apical preparation. Its superior features of marginal adaptation, biocompatibility, sealing ability in wet environments, induction and conduction of hard-tissue formation, and cementogenesis with consequent formation of normal periodontal adhesion make it the most suitable material for these clinical situations. MTA Repair HP is available in powder and liquid form. It preserves all the features of traditional MTA with the addition of easier clinical handling. This last property is due to a change in the particle size of the MTA powder and the addition of a plasticiser to the liquid.

Five months after microsurgery, the patient returned for clinical and radiographic control. Clinically, she did not complain about pain or discomfort. Radiographically, a rapid repair of the peripex of the three teeth involved was observed (Fig. 12).

Conclusion

The chemical-mechanical preparation phase of the root canal system is of utmost importance for the success of endodontic therapy. Operational errors at this stage, including transportation of the foramina, can dramatically compromise the prognosis of a case.

Therefore, it is extremely important to prevent these. Depending on the severity of the error, however, it can be repaired. Post-operative clinical and radiographic control showed that microsurgical complementation can be a safe and predictable clinical option.

Editorial note: A list of references is available from the publisher.
Preventive dentistry will be at the core of oral health care in the future. With Prevention One, Swiss-based oral health care provider Curaden gives dental practices a new business model for additional revenue. It sets new standards in preventive planning and preventive actions, combining therapy with preventive planning and preventive products and services that extend into the patient’s home. Through Prevention One, preventive dentistry becomes not just an offer by your dental office, but a part of your daily routine.

Prevention One is more than a comprehensive programme for oral health care. It represents a new business model for the dental practice to activate, reactivate or motivate all existing and future patients. Prevention One is designed to integrate easily into the practice, as it perfectly interacts with all existing dental and prophylaxis offers of the practice. The business model includes specifically designed treatment programs, a wide variety of oral care products, supporting, software solutions, online services, marketing and communication material, and a specifically designed educational program.

This business model is based on five basic pillars. First, it offers new products that have a major impact on the range of services offered by the dental practice. Second, it includes an in-depth training programme for all participating members of the practice team. Third, it provides a marketing and communication kit, such as posters, brochures, visuals or a specially designed treatment table, for the dental practice. Fourth, it offers software solutions for monitoring performance and profitability, optimized appointment coordination and patient communication. Finally, it provides a means of evaluation, monitoring and management of the patient’s oral health using a newly designed scoring tool aimed at developing individual strategies to improve oral health. Clients will not only feel the improvement in their overall health but will actually see it.

Proven expertise and success

Prevention One was developed using the combined experience of Curaden in partnership with experts in business development and oral health prevention. “Many patients do not know what they should pay attention to and how important oral health is for their overall well-being. They do not know what tools and instruments they should use, what quality they should be looking for and how they should apply them,” explained Clifford zur Nieden, a member of the Curaden board of directors. “We will guide and coach them and provide continuous education and support. The actual training is done by the patient, or now called the client, himself or herself, but he or she receives the proper introduction, guidance, information and motivation to stay on track. That is why we like to call Prevention One a dental fitness programme.”

The trainer or Prevention One (P1) coach, is a dental hygienist or dental assistant in the dental practice. The P1 coach designs a specific training program based on the individual requirements of the patient using a special P1 scoring tool, which forms the basis for an individual oral health strategy and a means of measuring oral health. Based on the P1 score, the coach can develop an individual strategy for each patient to achieve the best possible result.

You only improve what you measure

Theodora Little, a dental hygienist and therapist from London, has introduced the P1 scoring tool to her patients this year. She considers Prevention One the next step to improving her patients’ overall health. “Prevention One is a modern and very effective approach to prevention. It combines tailored individual dental care with oral hygiene appointments and individual coaching using a scoring system.”

The score guides your patient through a multiple-choice questionnaire, beginning with oral hygiene aids and how often they are used. It continues with the frequency of visits to a dentist and/or hygienist. The second part includes a health and lifestyle questionnaire, and the third part includes the oral examination, which quantifies a plaque and bleeding index. At the end of these sections, the patient receives a percentage score. The patient and the coach look at the data together and discuss where and how to improve the individual score.

At the end of the appointment, the patient receives a general score—the P1 Score—which can then be compared to past and future scores to show overall improvement in a patient’s health. Theodora Little states: “This method motivates my patients to carry out effective oral hygiene at home because they want an improvement in their score at our next appointment. Even if a score only shows a small improvement, the patient feels happy and empowered by his or her own efforts.” The positive information from the P1 score can encourage the patient to progress further and put forth a greater effort in brushing their teeth.

Learn more about this new business model at www.prevention-one.com.
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Diego Lops
Goran Benic
For more than 20 years, the use of nickel-titanium (NiTi) in endodontics has allowed the speed, quality and reproducibility of root canal therapy to be improved. Over the same period, the geometry of the relevant instruments has evolved significantly too. In 2008, the appearance of the asymmetrical cross section with Revo-S1 (MICRO-MEGA) allowed for fewer restrictions and the cleaning capacity of endodontic instruments to be improved. MICRO-MEGA’s mastering of NiTi machining and changes in cross section and surface treatments (electropolishing and thermal treatment) have created a new instrument dedicated to enlarging root canal entrances.

The corono-radicular junction sometimes produces a particular form of mineralisation that partially obstructs root canal entrances. To give an example, sometimes this triangular mineralisation, at the level of the root canal entrances to the molars, is located opposite the furcation (Fig. 1). In order to prevent it from limiting the use of files and to optimise initial preparation for endodontic treatment, it must be removed (Fig. 2). Generic instruments such as Gates-Glidden or Largo drills have been used for this purpose, but they present a risk of effecting major changes to the root canal anatomy, particularly in the case of the endodontic treatment of multirooted teeth. This challenge was the reason for the development of specific instruments such as ENDOFLARE (MICRO-MEGA) and ProTaper Universal SX (DENTSPLY, now Dentsply Sirona). A new generation of these files, whose design has benefited from advanced technologies related to asymmetry, cross section and thermal treatment, is now available in the form of MICRO-MEGA’s One Flare.

At only 17 mm, One Flare is relatively short in order to be able to work at the root canal entrance at the corono-radicular junction. It features a triple-helix cross section, which has been found to be one of the sturdiest among those that are currently used in clinical practice. Like the one of Revo-S or One Shape (MICRO-MEGA), this cross section is asymmetrical, but with a progression from the tip to the shaft for optimised flexibility. One Flare has a constant cone taper of 9% and a tip diameter of 0.25 mm. This tip gives the file extraordinary strength while remaining sufficiently thin to be able to easily penetrate after a scouting file.

The sharpened section of the instrument (13 mm) is made from...
NiTi wire with a diameter of 1 mm. The active section therefore varies from 0.25 to 1 mm, from the tip to the shaft, while the interval and angle of the helix increase. It also under- goes electropolishing treatment to remove machining burrs and give it a smooth surface and straight cutting edges without any snags, as well as thermal treatment to in- crease its flexibility and resistance to fracture (Figs. 3a & b). This treatment proves particularly signifi- cant when enlarging the entrance to a second mesobuccal canal in the maxillary molar, for example.

The great flexibility also makes it possible to enter extremely curved canals or ones with extreme changes of direction, all without any risk of fracturing the tip or of creating blockages or stops. The ge- ometry of and treatments used in the production of One Flare allow it to be used with a motor, with or without torque control, and continuous rotation of between 250 and 400 rpm, without pressure or with very low apical pressure.

After the initial scouting and se- curing using a hand file with a tip diameter of 0.1 mm or a continu- ous-rotation NiTi instrument such as One G (MICRO-MEGA), One Flare prepares the area of the con- ono-radicular junction. The instru- ment uses a conventional wave movement in three successive phases, from the crown to the tip, centred in the canal and allowing it to progress by a few millimetres. Af- ter treatment, the file is extracted from the canal and cleaned. The ca- nal is irrigated once again and nego- tiated using the steel file used for the initial root canal exploration. Once the instrument has pre- viously been used with pressure on the walls to selectively collect samples, remove the initial dental irregulari- ties and reduce the initial restric- tions to the following shaping in- strument (Fig. 4). This penetration (maximum of 4 mm) theoretically allows it to create a root canal en- trance of 0.61 mm (maximum of 0.70 mm), which is less than or equal to the diameter of a No. 2 Gates-Glidden drill (0.70 mm).

Conclusion
This new flaring instrument of- fers a new minimally invasive ap- proach to endodontic treat- ment by selectively eliminating dentine forma- tions at the corono-radicular junction. It meets multiple require- ments of endodontic preparation, such as removing initial interfer- ences to root canal preparation in- struments, preliminary removal of the first millimetres of a dense pulp, fibro-calci- and even necrotic parenchyma and re-centring of root canal shaping instruments (Fig. 5), as well as ensuring the precision of the apical limit of endodontic preparation1 and 3-D cleaning or filling of the root canal (Fig. 6).
Acupuncture: Probing its way into dentistry—Part I
An introduction to acupuncture and its practical applications in contemporary dental practice

By Dr Wong Li Beng, Singapore

The history of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) can be traced back to the Warring States and the Qin and Han dynasties more than 2,000 years ago. The Huangdi’s Inner Classic of Medicine, of comparable importance to the Hippocratic corpus in Greek medicine, is a scholastic collection of medicinal doctrines and philosophies accumulated over the years. To date, it still provides a theoretical guide and basis for the development of contemporary TCM. It consists of two parts, Suwen [plain questions], which mainly addresses the theoretical aspects and diagnostic methods, and Lingshu [spiritual pivot], which covers the practice of acupuncture.

Acupuncture, according to the definition of the TCM Practitioners Act in Singapore, “means “the stimulation of a certain point or points on or near the surface of the human body through any technique of point stimulation (with or without the insertion of needles), including through the use of electrical, magnetic, light and sound energy, cupping and moxibustion, to normalize physiological functions or to treat ailments or conditions of the human body”.” In order to understand the role of acupuncture therapy in TCM, we must first appreciate the fundamental treatment philosophies in TCM.

TCM is premised on the concept of holism, according to which the human body is seen as an organic whole, all the constituent parts and functions are interconnected and they coordinate and interact with one another functionally. There is also recognition of humans’ interaction with the external environment and its effect on the human body. The state of the constitution of the human body, at the point of challenge by pathogenic factors (both internal and external), will determine the occurrence and progression of disease. The constitution of the body can be regulated by maintaining the yin-yang and qi–blood balance. The vital qi or life force, is viewed as keeping the entire body system going. It circulates all over the body along designated pathways called “meridians”. To put it simply, acupuncture therapy involves the stimulation of certain points along the meridians to allow the free flow of qi to maintain yin-yang and qi–blood balance. The pathogenesis of disease based on TCM philosophy is summarised in Figure 1.1

This concept of host–pathogen interaction, according to which the manifestation of disease presentation depends on both the virulence of the invading pathogens and the host response, has parallels with some of the modern concepts of disease progression in Western medicine, for example the pathogenesis of periodontitis (Fig. 2)—an inflammatory disease initiated by oral micro-organisms, resulting in the loss of the supporting structures around the dentition.2

The story of New York Times editor James Reston, whose post-appendicectomy pain was relieved by acupuncture, and the visit of US President Richard Nixon to China in 1971 brought acupuncture into the limelight and created much interest in the Western medical field. In 1979, the World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed the use of acupuncture for treatment of 43 symptoms. In 1996, WHO’s endorsement of acupuncture was extended to 64 indications. In the Geneva 2003 WHO report, pain in dentistry (including dental pain and temporomandibular joint dysfunction syndrome), facial pain and postoperative pain were listed among the conditions for which acupuncture had been proven, through controlled trials, to be an effective treatment.4

Scientific basis of acupuncture
Acupuncture treatment involves the excitation of qi or “de qi”, which is the transmission of needling sensation along the meridians, often described by patients as soreness, numbness, ache, fullness or a warm sensation as a result of needle manipulation. This is also perceived by the acupuncturist as a needle grasp sensation, which is key in achieving therapeutic efficacy. Recent histological evidence using rat models suggests that this needle grasp sensation is the result of collagen and elastic fibres tightening around the needle during needle manipulation.5 The authors went further to postulate that this mechanical coupling between the needle and soft tissue is responsible for transducing mechanical signals to fibroblasts and other cells, with resultant therapeutic downstream effects.

How acupuncture can relieve pain can be explained by the gate control theory of pain. It proposes that the activation of alpha delta and C afferent nerve fibres through acupuncture point stimulation sends signals to the spinal cord, with local release of dynorphins and enkephalins.6 Upon reaching the midbrain, both excitatory and inhibitory mediators are activated in the spinal cord. Neurontransmitters, like serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine, are produced, causing pre- and postsynaptic inhibition of pain transmission.

Fig. 1: Pathogenesis of disease based on TCM philosophy

**Endogenous pathogens**
- 7 emotions
- improper diet
- maladjustment of work and leisure

**Exogenous pathogens**
- wind
- cold
- summer heat
- dampness
- fire heat
- pestilent pathogens

**Constitution of patient**
- yin–yang balance
- qi–blood balance
- status of vital qi
- qi flow in the meridian

**Clinical presentation of disease based on 8 principles for syndrome differentiation**
- exterior and interior
- cold and heat
- deficiency and excess
- yin and yang

**Secondary pathogenic factors**
- phlegm
- stagnant fluid
- stagnant blood
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When the signals reach the hypothalamus and pituitary gland, adrenocorticotropic hormones and endorphins may be produced. This forms the basis of our current understanding of the analgesic effect of acupuncture in Western medicine, although other therapeutic effects of acupuncture, such as in the treatment of nausea, gastritis, asthma and dysmenorrhea, are yet to be fully explained. In the case of asthma, one of the therapeutic acupuncture points, BL43 (feishu), lies approximately 1.5 inches (38 mm) lateral to the level of the spinous process of vertebra T3. It has been hypothesised that the location of BL43 (feishu) corresponds roughly to the sympathetic ganglion at the level of T3, which sends postganglionic fibres to the pulmonary plexus and cardiac plexus.

Dental application of acupuncture

Managing dental pain, analgesic effect and postoperative pain relief

According to TCM theory, local acupuncture points on the facial regions, like ST6 (jiache) and ST7 (xiaoyuan), and distant points, like LI4 ( Hegu), can be used to treat dental pain. They are part of the stomach and large intestine meridians, which converge at the facial region and link up with the maxillary and mandibular teeth, respectively. Western medical literature has proposed that acupuncture can produce an analgesic effect at a distant site by diffuse noxious inhibitory control. This provides a possible explanation as to how the acupuncture point LI4 ( Hegu), which is located on the radial side of the second metacarpal bone on the dorsum of the hand, can elicit an analgesic effect in the orofacial region.

The role of acupuncture in contemporary dentistry may not be so much the removal of the aetiology of dental pain, but rather as an adjunct in achieving anaesthesia during dental procedures and providing postoperative pain relief. A pilot study was conducted to investigate whether the induction time of local anaesthesia can be reduced if acupuncture is given before injection. The results showed that, in the group in which local acupuncture points SI3 (tinaog), ST7 (daying) and ST6 (jiache)—within the innervations of the mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve—were stimulated before an inferior alveolar nerve block was given using prilocaine hydrochloride, the induction time was 62 seconds, versus 119 seconds in the control group, in which only the nerve block was given. Findings from this study suggest that regional acupuncture can accelerate the induction time after an inferior alveolar nerve block. The results of another study indicate that acupuncture before inferior alveolar nerve block may increase its effectiveness in endodontic treatment of mandibular molars with symptomatic irreversible pulps.

Several studies have shown that acupuncture can reduce postoperative pain. A systematic review of 16 studies found that acupuncture therapy can help to alleviate postoperative pain, although heterogeneity in terms of methodological details among the studies reviewed may limit the conclusions that can be drawn. The practical implication of acupuncture therapy in alleviating postoperative pain may be helping to reduce the patients’ dependence on systemic analgesic medications. It is well documented that the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for pain control is associated with increased risk of gastrointestinal complications, such as ulceration and bleeding. A randomised placebo-controlled trial was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of acupuncture in treating postoperative oral surgery pain. The treatment group that received real acupuncture treatment immediately after the surgical removal of impacted lower third molars had a significantly longer pain-free postoperative period (257.9 minutes) compared with the placebo group (93.8 minutes). More importantly, the treatment group took a significantly longer time (241.1 minutes) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes). They also took significantly less medication (11 tablets vs. 16 tablets) to request analgesic medication compared with the placebo group (166.2 minutes).

The treatment of TMD depends on the aetiologies of the conditions. While acupuncture therapy may not be useful in eliminating the cause if it is due to structural anomalies, like capsular and degenerative changes, it may help to relieve the pain and discomfort associated with the conditions, especially if it is muscular in nature. It has been documented that acupuncture can help in muscle relaxation and reduce muscle spasm. Relaxing the lateral pterygoid muscles can reduce the anterior displacing force on the meniscus of the TMJ and help to minimise TMJ clucking.

A systematic review of 19 randomised controlled trials was conducted to assess the effectiveness of acupuncture for symptomatic treatment of TMD. The findings suggest moderate evidence for acupuncture as an effective intervention for the reduction of TMD symptoms, although more studies of larger sample sizes are needed to investigate the long-term effectiveness of acupuncture.

Trigeminal neuralgia is a sudden, unilateral, brief, stabbing, recurrent pain in the distribution of one or more branches of the trigeminal nerve. Carbamazepine is often the first-line treatment for this condition and is considered the gold standard, but it also has various side-effects, including drowsiness, dizziness and constipation. There are several case reports and case series in the Chinese literature on the success of acupuncture treatment on patients with trigeminal neuralgia. Acupuncture points Gb4 (yangbai) and EX-HN5 (taiyang) are used if the ophthalmic branch is affected, ST12 (shibai) and ST7 (jiaoliao) if the maxillary branch is affected, and ST6 (jiache) and ST7 (xiaoyuan) if the mandibular branch is affected. The choice of acupuncture points coincides with the distribution of the nerve branches. There is however, a paucity of reports in the Western literature and a lack of randomised controlled trials to verify its effectiveness in treating trigeminal neuralgia.

Environmental, acquired and genetic risk factors

TRENDS & APPLICATIONS

Clinical expression of disease initiation and progression

Dental Tribune United Kingdom Edition | 3/2017

Specific pathogenic bacteria

Host immune-inflammatory response

Connective tissue and bone metabolism

Clinical expression of disease initiation and progression

Fig. 2: Pathogenesis of periodontal disease.1

A patient receiving acupuncture treatment (left).—Modern prepacked, sterilised acupuncture needles used for treatment (right).
Anniversary dental event opens in Birmingham

Dentistry Show celebrates a decade of dental innovation and learning

By DTI

BIRMINGHAM, UK: Providing an ever-growing platform for learning and exchange of knowledge between the industry and professionals, the Dentistry Show and Dental Technology Showcase will be held for the tenth time this year for all members of the profession. Running on 12 and 13 May at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, the anniversary edition will again present the latest innovations and clinical developments in the field.

After the International Dental Show in March, held in Cologne in Germany, plenty of innovations are expected to be presented across the whole industry. There will be over 420 suppliers, including the trade’s biggest brand names, with many new products available to experience first-hand. At booth E95, the Dental Tribune International publishing group will be present with its extensive selection of general and specialist dental media. There, information will be available about both shows on its respective websites, www.thedentistryshow.co.uk and www.thedentistryshow.co.uk. For the latest news, interviews with opinion leaders and product information, please visit www.dental-tribune.co.uk. The organiser provides general information about both shows on its respective websites, www.thedentistryshow.co.uk and www.thedentistryshow.co.uk.

First held a decade ago, the Dentistry Show has become one of the foremost dental events in the UK. Since its inception, it has provided high-quality education for up to 85,000 hours of free verifiable CPD. The last edition, held in April 2016, was attended by over 7,300 dental professionals.

Co-located with the Dentistry Show, the Dental Technology Showcase will host more than 100 companies, which will be presenting groundbreaking products and tools in the dental technology segment. Its programme boasts over 40 hours of verifiable CPD education and will update attendees on the latest techniques, treatments and studies. In addition, it offers the perfect opportunity to network with and develop professional relationships with leading technicians.

According to the organiser, however, the Dentistry Show is designed with the whole dental team in mind. Consequently, there will also be two-day conferences designed specifically for dental nurses, hygienists and therapists, among others. Supported by Practice Plan, the Dental Business Theatre is ideal for dentists and practice managers to learn about the fundamentals and dos and don’ts of running a dental business.

“The Dentistry Show is always a really good event,” commented Deepak Simkhada, a London-based dental therapist who will be speaking at the Hygienist and Therapist Symposium. “There is a large selection of high-quality speakers covering a range of topics, plus many exhibitors showing the latest products and services. It’s always a lot of fun too!”

In support of the BDA Benevolent Fund, the organiser announced that £1 will be donated to the charity for every hour of verifiable CPD gained by attendees this year. With a target of delivering 100,000 hours of verifiable CPD, this could see a donation as large as £15,000.

Furthermore, visitors will have access to hundreds of hours of continuing professional development (CPD), available directly on the show floor. Presentations will include a wide range of topics, such as new clinical techniques, exciting materials, patient oral health and strategies to help grow a practice. Popular features from previous shows will return again, including the PerioLounge, EndoLounge, ADI Implant Theatre, CORE CPD Theatre and Short-Term Ortho Lounge. The British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry has announced its support of the Aesthetic Dentist Theatre, which will provide interested clinicians with a thorough understanding of key aesthetic subjects as they relate to a modern dental practice.

Last year’s Dentistry Show was attended by over 7,300 dental professionals. (© Daniel Zimmermann, DTI)

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Last year’s Dentistry Show was attended by over 7,300 dental professionals. (© Daniel Zimmermann, DTI)
How dental sensitivity can be improved with Biomin F

By Moira Crawford, UK

Sensitive teeth, causing discomfort and pain, particularly in reaction to hot or cold food and drinks, are a common problem. They are mainly affecting people aged 40-60, though sufferers can be of any age. Also known as dentine sensitivity, the condition is caused when the enamel surface of the tooth is worn away by acid attack. A wide variety of specialized toothpastes and products are available over the counter or on prescription for the treatment of dentine sensitivity but a new solution has been found to the problem: a bioactive glass which acts with the saliva in the mouth to remineralize tooth enamel, occluding the dentinal tubules and effectively preventing sensitivity.

Schematic Tubule Occlusion

- The fluorapatite formed with BioMin F forms not just on the surface but also preferentially on the apatite rich walls of the peritubular dentine within the dentinal tubules.

Comparison of BioMin F and BioMin C with Leading Brands

Importantly, patients appear to like it. A BioMin user survey in the UK, looking at patients who suffered from sensitivity, found that around 65% of them found their sensitivity had improved or even resolved, and almost half said it was more effective than other sensitivity toothpastes, while just under 40% found it roughly similar in effect. Overall 95% reported BioMin to be good or excellent, liking the texture, flavour, sense of cleanliness and level of foaming.

Crucially, though, rigorous testing in the state of the art laboratories at Queen Mary has shown delivering this precise combination of calcium, phosphate and fluoride ions in the slow release format provided as the glass dissolves, forms an apatite material in the mouth which is not only stable and resistant to acid attack. Great news for sensitivity sufferers.

Moira Crawford is a former dental editor and freelance health writer.

Visitors of the Dentistry Show will find more information about BioMin F at the Trycare booths (E40). There, Dr David Gillam, clinical adviser to BioMin and Senior Lecturer at QMUL, will be also giving two short presentations on Dentine Hypersensitivity Management at 9.30 and 11.00 on Friday, 12 May. He will also hold a longer lecture in the Perio Lounge at 13.30 that day.
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www.ROOTS-SUMMIT.com
Brian Cox
(Science Tour)
- Date & Time: 12 May, 20:00
- Location: Barclaycard Arena, King Edwards Road
- www.barclaycardarena.co.uk
A Professor at the University of Manchester, Cox is best known to the public as the presenter of a number of science programmes for the BBC, boosting the popularity of subjects such as astronomy and physics. His spring tour, which was extended due to popular demand, is taking audiences on a dazzling journey through space and time, delving into ‘high science’ and freewheeling on the edges of the known cosmos.

Lucky Sods (Theatre)
- Date & Time: 12 & 13 May, 19:45
- Location: 118 Great Hampton Street
- www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
When Morris and Jean win the National Lottery to the tune of two million pounds—they can’t believe their luck. But the cracks in their marriage widen, their past catches up with them and their relatives become increasingly resentful. Jean keeps winning and Morris takes off to Amsterdam with an old flame, but will his prophecy that bad luck always follows good turn out to be true?

Aida (Musical)
- Date & Time: 12 & 13 May, 19:30
- Location: Homer Road, Touchwood, Solihull
- thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk
The Solihull Theatre Company presents the Solihull premiere of Elton John and Tim Rice’s Aida, the pop musical version of the classic Verdi opera. Spanning across the ages, it tells an epic tale of love, loyalty, and betrayal, chronicling the love triangle between Aida, a Nubian princess stolen from her country and enslaved, Amneris, an Egyptian princess, and Radames, the soldier they both love. Ultimately, with love and responsibility at odds, Aida and Radames must decide to follow their hearts or lead their people.

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