Early orthodontic treatment and oral health-related quality of life

By DTI

SHEFFIELD, UK: In Western countries like the UK, between 10 and 20 per cent of adolescents undergo orthodontic measures in some form. A recent meta-analysis conducted by researchers at the University of Sheffield’s School of Clinical Dentistry has indicated that treatment in those younger years may have a measurable impact on a person’s oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL).

In their review, they found that levels of emotional and social well-being concerning OHRQoL improved moderately in patients who were treated orthodontically before they were 18 years old. The findings are relevant, because, until now, there has been little evidence that treatment actually improves OHRQoL.

The researchers included data from over a dozen studies reporting outcomes before and after orthodontic treatment that were conducted within the last ten years in countries like Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Italy, the UK and the US. Of these, four were finally selected for using similar questionnaires to measure what young people thought about their teeth and how their dental appearance affected their life, before and after orthodontic treatment. All showed measurable and moderately large improvement in the areas of emotional and social well-being, according to the researchers.

The study revealed first evidence that orthodontic treatment in early age improves oral health-related quality of life. (© Nina Buday/Shutterstock.com)

"As practising orthodontists we are constantly being told by our patients that they are pleased they had their teeth straightened and that they are no longer embarrassed to smile or to be photographed," explained co-author Prof. Philip Blesson, who is also Director of Research at the British Orthodontic Society. "We wanted to find all the research that has tried to measure this effect with young people."

While the findings are a first step to establishing a platform for exploring this issue further, Blesson admitted that the number of participants included in the studies was small and that higher-quality data is needed to substantiate the conclusions. A follow-up study investigating OHRQoL in the under-18 age group under the supervision of co-author and student Hanieh Javidi as part of her doctoral research project is underway at the School of Clinical Dentistry.

The study, titled "Does orthodontic treatment before the age of 18 years improve oral health-related quality of life? A systematic review and meta-analysis," was published in the April issue of the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

ROOTS SUMMIT 2018
Premier endodontic event in Berlin open for registration

By DTI

BERLIN, Germany: Online registration for the next ROOTS SUMMIT, the premier global discussion forum dedicated to endodontic dentistry, is now open. Featuring lectures and workshops, it will be held at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin from 28 June to 1 July 2018. Approximately 500 visitors are expected for the event, which is again being organised in collaboration with Dental Tribune International.

Although the 2018 ROOTS SUMMIT will mainly feature presentations on the latest techniques and technologies in endodontics, the organisers are inviting dental professionals in all fields, as well as manufacturers in the industry, suppliers of endodontic products and anyone involved in the practice of endodontic treatment, to attend.

It has been announced that foremost opinion leaders, including Drs Frederic Barnett, Gergely Benyócs and Elisabetta Cotti, will be speaking at the conference next year. There will also be the opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops, speak to industry professionals on-site and engage with new equipment, procedures and protocols in endodontic dentistry. A number of dental companies specialising in endodontics, including META BIOMED and FKG Dentaire, have already confirmed their participation.

The ROOTS SUMMIT, which started as a mailing list of a large group of endodontic enthusiasts in the 1990s, has grown significantly over the last few years. With currently more than 24,000 members from over 100 countries, the ROOTS SUMMIT evolved into one of the most prominent global learning forums in the dental industry.

Previous conferences have been held in Canada, the US, Mexico, Spain, the Netherlands, Brazil and India. The 2016 ROOTS SUMMIT took place in the UAE and was one of the most important events in endodontics, drawing over 500 dental professionals to Dubai. These meetings have been known for their strong scientific programmes.

An early bird discount of 20 per cent is being offered and dental students too will be granted a 20 per cent discount. Additional information and online registration can be found at www.roots-summit.com. Dental professionals are also invited to like the ROOTS SUMMIT Facebook page to view the latest updates.