**Anxiety provoking scale developed**

**By DTI**

**HONG KONG:** Dental anxiety is a major hindrance in the provision of dental care. Although it is known that fear of the dentist is closely related to patients’ past experiences in the dental setting, only limited scientific research on the actual causes of dental anxiety is available. Now, researchers have developed a Dental Anxiety Provoking Scale (DAPS) that measures the degree to which anxiety is triggered by certain dental stimuli.

For the study, the participants, 460 male and female students recruited from two universities in Hong Kong, answered a questionnaire including a 79-item measure of dental anxiety-provoking stimuli. The factor analysis established seven factors for the DAPS, namely, dental check-up, injection, scale and drill, surgery, empathy, perceived lack of control, and clinical environment.

In a sub-group of 160 participants, injections and surgical treatment, in particular, were identified as anxiety-provoking events. Although it was not statistically significant finding, female respondents showed relatively higher anxiety regarding injection, surgery, and scale and drill, while male respondents showed relatively higher anxiety regarding perceived lack of control, empathy, and dental check-ups.

In addition, the researchers found that perceived dentist behaviour had an impact on the expression and development of dental fear, indicating that the dentist–patient relationship is strongly related to patients’ feelings of safety and control during treatment.

The researchers concluded that the DAPS covers a broad spectrum of patients’ individual dentist-related anxiety and may also function as a further assessment to supplement initial screening. This may allow the identification of patients with higher dental fear so that the causes of their dental fear can then be addressed.

The study, titled ‘Development of a Dental Anxiety Provoking Scale: A pilot study in Hong Kong’, was published in the September issue of the Journal of Dental Sciences.

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**Extractions cost Australia millions**

A new study conducted at the University of Western Australia has shown that prophylactic removal of third molars costs the Australian health system more than half a billion Australian dollar a year. In addition, the researchers found that between A$420 and A$513 million (US$309 and 377 million) could be saved annually if Australia adopted guidelines comparable to the UK.

The UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence generally recommends that asymptomatic impacted third molars not be operated on because there is no reliable research to suggest that this practice benefits patients, and surgery is linked to adverse health effects, including pain, nerve damage and infection.

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Holding a 45% share of the international market for laboratory ceramics and more than 75% in individual countries, Ivoclar Vivadent is present in 130 countries and is represented by 103 sales organizations worldwide. Ivoclar Vivadent is headquartered in Schaan, Liechtenstein and has an international sales and service network through the DENTSPLY SIRONA group. The new company will be headquartered in Solothurn, Switzerland.

**DENTSPLY International** and **Siroma** have entered into a definitive merger agreement and will operate under the name of DENTSPLY SIRONA in the future. Both companies will retain their respective headquarters. The current DENTSPLY head office in York will serve as the new company’s global headquarters, while the international headquarters will be located in Solothurn.

Upon close of the transaction, Jeffrey T. SLoven, current president and CEO of Siroma, will serve as CEO of DENTSPLY SIRONA and will be a member of the board of directors. Bret W. Wise, current chairman and CEO of DENTSPLY, will assume the position of executive chairman of the newly founded company. In their respective positions, they will collaborate in executing the corporate strategy and in integrating the companies and their respective corporate cultures.

Together, the companies expect to generate a net revenue of about US$5.8 billion (€5.4 billion) and adjusted EBITDA of more than US$900 million (€760 million), excluding the incremental benefit of synergies.