**CROWNS SUPERIOR TO DENTAL FILLINGS**

*By DTI*

**DUNDEE, UK:** The Cochrane Oral Health Group in Manchester has recently updated one of its reviews, finding any kind of performed crown to be superior to fillings in the treatment of severely decayed primary molars and primary molars that have undergone pulp treatment. The results also suggest that out of all fitting methods, the Hall technique causes the least discomfort and problems for patients.

Named after its inventor, a Scottish dentist, the Hall technique uses a preformed metal crown that is fitted over the tooth with no local anaesthetic, caries tissue removal or tooth preparation. First introduced a decade ago, it was originally developed as a non-invasive treatment for decayed primary molars.

While the review found no evidence of the superiority of one crown type to another, the results showed that teeth restored with preformed crowns compared with fillings are less likely to develop problems or cause pain over time.

“Crowns are recommended for restoring primary molars that have had a pulp treatment, are very decayed or are badly broken down. However, few dental practitioners use them in clinical practice,” the researchers said in the report.

With the review, the researchers originally sought to determine whether the clinical outcome of primary teeth restored with preformed crowns or with fillings was in any way related to the extent of their decay.

The review updates a previous version on the subject, originally published by the group in 2007.

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**DENTAL LASER MARKET GROWS STEADILY**

*By DTI*

**CHARING, UK:** In addition to oral surgery, dental lasers are used for a variety of applications, ranging from caries diagnosis to periodontal treatment and teeth whitening. Owing to the increasing demand in this sector, among other influences, the worldwide market for the devices will grow by a compound annual growth rate of 5.2 per cent over the next five years and is expected to exceed US$200 million (£144 million) by 2020, a new report has predicted.

According to the report, this growth will primarily be driven by the Asia Pacific market as clinicians and patients in this region are increasingly becoming aware of the benefits of laser devices.

Other developments contributing to the growth of laser use include the rise in the number of aesthetic procedures on the continent and the ageing population.

The report, which was conducted by market research provider Marketsandmarkets and published by Reportbuyer in Charing last week, analysed industry trends and the market shares of top players in the field, such as Biolase, Sirona and Ivoclar Vivadent.

It also provides insights into the markets for dental lasers across various regions, exploring new distribution channels, new client bases and different pricing policies.

“The report will enrich both established firms and smaller firms to analyse the market, which in turn will help these firms achieve greater market share,” the authors stated.

Owing to technical advances and high adoption rates, North America is currently leading the world market for dental laser technology, particularly soft tissue lasers.