Economic downturn affects adoption of CAD/CAM in Asia-Pacific region

VANCOUVER, Canada: The latest report by international market research and consulting group iData Research shows that the Asia-Pacific market for dental prostheses and CAD/CAM devices is currently valued at over US$10 billion. According to the report, the penetration rate of CAD/CAM prostheses has been limited, however, by difficult economic circumstances in Japan, South Korea, Australia and China, among other countries.

In particular, the report showed that the economic recession slowed unit sales growth and that dental laboratories faced budget constraints.

"We are seeing less investment in CAD/CAM systems in many Asia-Pacific countries due to preference for porcelain-fused-to-metal, as opposed to all-ceramic restorations. Dental laboratories increasingly prefer standalone scanner systems as a more affordable option than higher-priced milling systems," explained iData CEO Dr. Kamran Zamanian. "Standalone scanners will be a larger driver for growth in this market, as many companies in the Asia-Pacific region seek to expand their networks of scanners to support their full in-lab CAD/CAM systems."

Other growth factors will be pricing pressure owing to more manufacturers entering the market and demographic factors owing to an aging population worldwide, with the resulting demand for dental prostheses.

According to the report, dental company Sirona holds a majority share in the Asia-Pacific CAD/CAM systems market, followed by competitors E4D Technologies, 3M ESPE, SShaper, Nobel Biocare, KaVo, Wieland and Roland.

The full report, titled "Asia-Pacific Markets for Dental Prosthetics and CAD/CAM Devices," can be accessed on iData's website.

Market player reorganises

KaVo Kerr Group has announced that it will be reorganising three of its five professional consumables brands. After the internal restructuring, Kerr, Kerr TotalCare and Axis/SybronEndo will be operated under four core identities: Kerr Restoratives, Kerr Endodontics, Kerr Rotary and Kerr TotalCare.

Gum helps with earworms

A study from the UK has found that people who chewed gum after hearing catchy songs thought less often about the song than in two control conditions in which they did not chew gum or tapped with each of the fingers of their dominant hand in turn. Chewing gum also reduced the frequency with which they "heard" the song by one-third.

Eat your curry

New research has demonstrated that curcumin, one of the primary components of turmeric and curry powders, has a quelling effect on the activity of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which has been increasingly associated with the development of oral cancer over the past several decades.

The scientists found that the natural antioxidant curcumin slows the expression of HPV, suggesting that it could help control the extent of HPV-related oral cancers.

Oral squamous cell carcinoma is the sixth most common cancer worldwide. The World Health Organization states that the incidence of oral cancer ranges from one to ten cases per 100,000 people in most countries.
AP prominent in global dental schools list

In one of the worst earthquakes in over 80 years, more than 10,000 people are believed to have died in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Living in and practising dentistry in the capital of Kathmandu, dentist Dr Sushil Koirala has been directly affected by the disaster. Dental Tribune Asia Pacific had the opportunity to talk to him briefly about the situation in the country and how the international community can help it to overcome the humanitarian crisis.

Dental Tribune Asia Pacific: The earthquake on 25 April had a devastating effect on your country’s infrastructure and its people. What is the situation currently in Kathmandu, and how have you been affected personally?

Dr Sushil Koirala: The situation in Kathmandu at present remains very difficult owing to the extensive damage to many public buildings, government offices and schools. Nearly 7,500 lives have been lost and 14,500 people have been injured. Those who survived the earthquake are traumatised.

While physically my family and I are fine, we are still pretty much in shock. My children are traumatised. Survived the earthquake are very distressed because they are alone at home during the first episode of the earthquake. Some of my staff from the hospitals and clinics lost their houses unfortunately and have to stay with relatives for the moment.

Have you heard from colleagues in other parts of the country, and if so what is their situation?

Most of my dental colleagues are unharmed, but many of them are facing problems with their damaged clinics. Most of the dental hospitals in Kathmandu are still closed owing to the damage and employees not being able to work because they are busy rebuilding their lives. Various agencies have estimated that more than eight million people across 59 of the country’s 75 districts have been affected by the earthquake. The most extensive damage to many public buildings, government offices and schools. Nearly 7,500 lives have been lost and 14,500 people have been injured. Those who survived the earthquake are traumatised. Survived the earthquake are very distressed because they are alone at home during the first episode of the earthquake. Some of my staff from the hospitals and clinics lost their houses unfortunately and have to stay with relatives for the moment.

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Monk looking at destruction caused by the 25 April earthquake in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. Damages are estimated at US$200 million. (Photo Sarinendra Shrestha/EPA)

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