Dear reader,

When I was finishing this edition of Dental Tribune Asia Pacific, news broke that a politician and former dental hygienist who treated the Italian Prime Minister could face trial for charges of running a prostitute ring. Unfortunately, I had to abandon the story at the very last minute owing to threats directed towards our licence partner in Italy.

There are indeed many obstacles the journalistic profession has to face nowadays, such as greater time pressure, diminishing revenues and, to some extent, social media. The greatest threat in many countries however comes from the political and economic forces that pursue power and prestige at the expenses of the masses.

I live in a country where freedom of press is relatively protected and censorship hardly exists. Many of my colleagues around the world are not that fortunate. Some even have to pay the price. I continue to suffer from a toxic mercury brain poison. I continue to suffer from the neurological damage caused by the ravages of toxic mercury. One can do nothing. I continue to be disabled by the ravages of toxic mercury.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Zimmermann
Group Editor
Dental Tribune International

EU amalgam initiative is welcome

Lars Hylander
Sweden

I welcome the new initiative by the European Commission to look into the amalgam issue. Experiences from the Nordic countries in Europe and Japan clearly demonstrate that dental fillings containing mercury do not belong in developed societies ...

In places where the present treatment of caries is tooth extraction, traumatic restorative treatment (ART) presents a promising alternative. ART does not require dental clinics with electricity, since ART uses hand tools to clear the cavities of tooth material decayed by caries. Hand tools are also used for the subsequent placing of glass ionomers. In addition, the fluoride content of glass ionomers may be beneficial in caries prevention. The ART technique is also easy to learn and use even for non-dental professionals.

In the end, everybody benefits from not inserting amalgam fillings, thereby markedly reducing human exposure, as well as mercury emissions into air and water, while improving oral health and quality of life.

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To the Editor

Re: “New evidence links mercury to Alzheimer’s” (Dental Tribune Asia Pacific Vol. 8, No. 11, page 6)

As a former dental assistant disabled by the ravages of toxic mercury vapour exposure know I am at a 60% increased risk for Alzheimer’s, the result of this terrible cumulative neurotoxin (brain poison), I continue to suffer everyday from the neurological damage to my entire body like the other 260,000 dental assistants in the US and around the world who are not properly informed about the dangers or protected by OSHA safeguards.

Karen Palmer, 14 Jun. 2011

Re: “Interview: ‘The WaveOne is a simple system’” (Dental Tribune Asia Pacific Vol. 8, No. 3, page 6)

Why can’t endodontics be simple?? Because it isn’t!!! Molar ends is not simple because molar anatomy is not simple. Mandibular premolar anatomy is not simple. Endodontics is not like operative dentistry. This is not progress. This is delusional. It is the “dumbing down” of endodontics— for a fee.

This strategy is not helping our specialty. This does not recognize the complex anatomy of the structures that we are called upon to treat. It does not recognize or acknowledge the need for hand files, the art of file bending and nuances of the specialty. It reduces it to the level of something “anyone can do.”

Rob K., 27 Mar. 2011

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