No more dental colleges in the country

The Dental Council of India (DCI) has decided not to sanction new dental colleges, anywhere in the country for the next five years, to regulate dental education and the dental profession. This announcement was made by DCI chairman Dr Anil Kohli, who was in Mangalore to attend the silver jubilee celebration of A B Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences.

“It is imperative to maintain quality in every sphere of life,” Dr Kohli said. “The field of medical sciences assumes far greater importance, now even before in this age of change,” he said, adding that “preserving quality of education is of paramount importance.”  “Rather than sanctioning new dental colleges, DCI will focus its energy on ensuring that quality dental education is imparted to students in existing dental colleges in India,” he added.

Indigenous implants will be a lot cheaper

A report, published in The Times of India says that the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS), under the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative by the Ministry of Science and Technology, has successfully developed a new indigenous dental implant, which will cost between Rs 2,000 and 5000.

Dr Mahesh Verma, principal investigator of the project, said that a team of doctors, from MAIDS, conceptualized & designed the outline for the implant which has been fabricated by IIT Delhi engineers. “Five human trials of the indigenous implant, fabricated in India, have been successfully completed,” he added. The micro CT analysis, to assess the percentage and quality of osseointegration of implant in the trial, conducted on rabbits was done at Trivandrum-based research institute have also shown positive results.

The dental implants, imported from countries like US and Israel, cost up to Rs 20,000. The indigenous implants are expected to provide a cheaper solution to wider loser implants in India.

Brain unable to localise tooth pain

Claudia Salviczek

ERLANGEN/LEIPZIG, Germany: The brain is not able to discriminate between a painful upper tooth and a painful lower tooth, researchers found. The results of a new imaging study, which will be published in the journal Pain, may help devise better treatments for acute tooth pain, such as cavities or infections, and more chronic conditions like phantom pain of a tooth after it has been removed.

The researchers led by Prof Clemens Forster of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany analysed the brain activity in healthy volunteers as they experienced tooth pain. By delivering short electrical pulses to either the upper left or the lower left canine tooth, a painful sensation similar to that felt when biting into an ice cube was triggered. To see how the brain responds to pain emanating from different teeth, the researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to monitor changes in activity when the upper or the lower tooth was stimulated.

“At the beginning, we expected a good difference, but that was not the case,” Forster stated.

Nano-Bio-Chip detects oral cancer

Isha Goel

New Delhi, India: A team of scientists at the Bio Science Research Collaborative, at Rice University, in Houston, U.S, has developed a nano-bio-chip (NBC) sensor technique that analyzes specimens from brush biopsies of lesions to detect oral cancer. The nano-bio-chip integrates multiple laboratory processes into a single microfluidic platform: cell separation/capture on the membrane filter, biomarker immunolabeling and cytochemical staining, and fluorescent imaging and analysis. According to this pilot study, published in the Journal Cancer Prevention Research, the researchers compared results of traditional diagnostic test, and those obtained with the NBC, to find that the diagnostic NBC had comparable success rate with 97 percent sensitivity in detecting oral cancer, and 95 percent specificity in detecting which patients had malignant or premalignant lesions. The device will undergo a more extensive clinical trial involving 500 patients in Houston, San Antonio, and the U.K., which could lead to an application for FDA approval in two to five years.

Oral cancer is among the ten most common cancers worldwide with a high mortality rate. According to a WHO survey report, India has the highest number of oral cancer cases in the world, out of which 90 percent were due to tobacco related diseases, leading to 2,200 deaths each day. The 5-year survival rate of 50 percent, among patients with oral cancer, has remained unchanged for the past 50 years as most cases are diagnosed in the advanced stages.

This minimally invasive procedure requires just a little brush of the lesion with a toothbrush-like instrument instead of an invasive, painful biopsy, and can deliver results with in 15 mins. “One of the key discoveries in this paper is to show that the miniaturized, noninvasive approach produces about the same result as the pathologists do,” study leader John McD evitt said in a statement.

The Rice University has received a US $2 million grant from the National Institute for Dental & Craniofacial Research Division of the National Institutes of Health for their work.

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IDEEM confirms role as major APAC meeting

Organiser announces plans for 2012/More variety in the scientific programme

Daniel Zimmermann
DTT

SINGAPORE/LEIPZIG, Germany: With final participation numbers having been announced, the International Dental Exhibition and Meeting (IDEEM) confirmed its position as a major dental meeting for the Asia Pacific region. An improved scientific programme & a higher number of exhibitors again drew more than 6,000 dental professionals to Singapore. Exhibitors and the organiser said that they were satisfied with the number and type of visitors this year.

IDEEM, which is organised by Koelnmesse Singapore Ltd, is held biannually in cooperation with the Singapore Dental Association and the FD I World Dental Federation. This year’s scientific programme focused on implantology and aesthetics—two of the most successful sectors in the Asia Pacific dental market. Although sales figures were significantly affected by the global financial crisis in 2008/09, growth rates are expected to pick up once the economy begins to recover, a May 2009 industry report stated. According to the same report, sales figures of dental implants in the Asia Pacific region experienced doubledigit growth rates back in 2008.

Implantology was a significant part of this year’s trade exhibition, which saw increased numbers of dental surgical equipment and bone-grafting tools to aid dental implant procedures on display. Besides classical equipment like instruments, units or fillings, digital dentistry specialists also presented 3-D imaging systems that aim to streamline communication between dentists and laboratories, and thus improve long-term treatment outcomes.

For the first time, manufacturers from the republics of Slovenia & Colombia showcased their portfolio in Singapore. The British Dental Trade Association hosted their first national pavilion at the show alongside trade participations from Australia, Taiwan, Singapore, Korea, France and Switzerland. The US and German dental industry were the most well represented, with more than 20 companies representing all sectors in dentistry.

Michael Dreyer, Vice-President Asia Pacific of Koelnmesse Pte Ltd, told Dental Tribune Asia Pacific that despite organisational changes and the economic downturn, IDEEM 2010 was in line with IDEEM 2008. He said that his company will aim to improve the meeting further in order to make it available to further professional groups like dental assistants.

Singapore Dental Association President Dr Lewis Lee said that the decision to hold pre-congress courses and master classes this year was well received by most congress attendees. He announced plans to broaden the scientific programme in 2012, incorporating more topics like dental materials, orthodontics or oral medicine. A larger number of hands on workshop will be offered as well, he added.

Dentists crucial for detecting mouth breathing symptoms

Daniel Zimmermann
DTT

NEW YORK, USA/LEIPZIG, Germany: Medical and dental problems associated with mouth breathing often go unnoticed by health professionals, a new study from the US suggests. The habit, which is caused by abnormalities of the upper respiratory tract, usually occurs in spring when many people suffer from pollen and seasonal allergies. Dentist are advised to regularly check for mouth breathing symptoms and swollen tonsils especially in children as young as 5 years of age, the author recommends.

If untreated, mouth breathing can cause a wide range of medical issues such as poor oxygen concentration in the blood, high blood pressure or sleep apnoea. In addition, it has been found to be responsible for abnormal facial growth primarily in the upper and lower jaw shape of children, leading to Long Face Syndrome, gummy smiles or other malocclusions. Moreover, poor sleeping habits that result from the condition can adversely affect growth and academic performance.

Dentists may be the first to identify the symptoms of mouth breathing, as they typically request that their patients return every six months, which means that some people see their dentist more frequently than they see their physician.

Treatment for mouth breathing can be beneficial for children’s medical and social conditions if caught early. Swollen tonsils and adenoids can be surgically removed by an ear-nose-throat specialist & dentists can use expansion appliances to help widen the sinuses and open nasal airway passages if the face and mouth are narrow.