Confused by abbreviations identifying dental groups? The problem isn’t as black and white as you think.

The researchers identified traces of a dental filling made of beeswax in a 6,500-year-old human mandible shows evidence of beeswax used to seal a cracked, upper canine.

The tooth probably became very sensitive, limiting the functionality of the jaw during occlusion. The occlusal surface could have been filled with beeswax in an attempt to reduce the pain by sealing exposed dentin tubules and the fracture from changes in osmotic pressure (as occurs on contact with sugar) and temperature (hot or cold relative to the oral cavity), the team wrote.

The piece of jawbone with five teeth still attached was discovered long before the team’s research was conducted. It was excavated from a cave wall near the village of Loche, Istria, in Slovenia and was initially dated based on associated fauna remains, which traced to the Upper Pleistocene era.

The researchers acknowledge in its paper that if not absolutely certain that the beeswax filling was placed in the tooth in an effort to address a dental problem the individual was experiencing while alive. But the paper identifies that as being the most likely scenario that would have had exposed dentin.

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COLORFUL ‘SOLUTION’ FOR DENTISTRY’S ALPHABET SOUP

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FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF A3

Dental Tribune U.S. EIC suggests colorfully confusing communication

MEETINGS A4–A12

American Dental Association takes ‘future of dentistry’ to San Francisco

Academy of Microscope Enhanced Dentistry plans big meeting

Yankel Dental Congress highlights include mid-conference comic

C.E. credits, beautiful beaches make Smiles in the Sun unique event

INDUSTRY A14–A28

Arbex donates ‘unit No. 10,000’ NOMAD Pro Handheld X-ray device

New Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution from Glidewell Laboratories

Arm & Hammer sponsors high-profile events at ADA annual meeting

Philips Zoom Whitescan gives clinician control of sensitivity settings

Blind spot costing you thousands?

Philips Wand STA: painless injection

Next Apexco video features top oral surgeon with three-part C.E. course

Pink FlashTips support cancer fight

Scheduling Institute finds learning’s sweet spot, where everything clicks

OrthoExe online payroll services comprehensive but low priced

Patterson Dental’s Eaglesoft 16 makes daily practice life easier

Stone-age dental filling identified

6,500-year-old human mandible shows evidence of beeswax used to seal a cracked, upper canine

A team of Italian and Australian researchers appears to have found physical proof that restorative dentistry dates to the Stone Age. The researchers identified traces of a dental filling made of beeswax in a Neolithic human tooth discovered in Slovenia — and they are saying it may be the “earliest known direct evidence of [a] therapeutic-palliative dental filling.”

The research findings were published Sept. 19 in PLOS ONE, the peer-reviewed, open-access journal, accessible at www.plosone.org.

The team acknowledges in its paper that it cannot be absolutely certain that the beeswax filling was placed in the tooth in an effort to address a dental problem the individual was experiencing while alive. But the paper identifies that as being the most likely of the possible scenarios that would explain the presence of the substance on a worn-down tooth that otherwise would have had exposed dentin.

“The tooth probably became very sensitive, limiting the functionality of the jaw during occlusion. The occlusal surface could have been filled with beeswax in an attempt to reduce the pain by sealing exposed dentin tubules and the fracture from changes in osmotic pressure (as occurs on contact with sugar) and temperature (hot or cold relative to the oral cavity),” the team wrote.

The piece of jawbone with five teeth still attached was discovered long before the team’s research was conducted. It was excavated from a cave wall near the village of Loche, Istria, in Slovenia and was initially dated based on associated fauna remains, which traced to the Upper Pleistocene era.

The team reported that the specimen was considered to be “one of the most ancient anthropological remains from the northern-Adriatic area.” But the find had never been subjected to detailed analysis until the researchers secured permission to study the man-dible using state-of-the-art scanning technology and radiocarbon dating techniques.
Permission was granted by Italy’s Natural History Museum of Trieste, to whom the original finders had donated the specimen. The mandible, determined to be from a male who died in his 20s, was described by the team as, “the left portion of an isolated adult mandible bearing a canine, two premolars, and the first two molars.”

The 12-person team of researchers from university and governmental facilities in Italy and Australia used Dental Tribune U.S. Edition | October 2012

A2

NEWS

• FILLING, page A1

Various views of the mandible discovered in a cave in southern Slovenia. Scale bar, 10 mm.


A) Distal-mesial section of lower left canine. B) Micro-CT detail of crown showing thickness of beeswax (in yellow). Beeswax exactly fills shallow cavity in exposed dentin and upper part of crack. B2) 3-D reconstruction and B3) microphotograph of crown in occlusal view with indication of surface covered by beeswax (within yellow dotted line). C) Micro-CT based cross-sections showing enamel cracks along labial and lingual aspects. Positions of the cross-sections are shown in B2. Beeswax is shown yellow. Scale bars, 2 mm.

See FILLING, page A3
A dilemma. We now have so many dental groups that we have almost run out of letters of the alphabet. As group after group abbreviates its name, we are at a loss to tell one from another without a scorecard. Either we need a new alphabet language or more exotic sounding dental organizations with as yet, unused letters.

History relates its alphabet beginnings to Mesopotamia, where early transcribers used grooved lines on a bulla, or gourd-like container. These scratches of lines became the beginnings of written communication.

Flashing forward to mobile communications of today, where time pressures have abbreviated words, and we have a lingo all of its own: Abbreviating is a modern necessity.

To begin with, you cannot tweet — under twittering rules — over a certain number of characters. Also, texting spottishification requires not only abbreviating, but also doing it creatively, to stump the recipient.

Fortunately, having a college-aged daughter has given me a little heads up in this language. For example, CUL means “see you later” and POS means “parent over shoulder.” Everyone is in a rush — but to where? Tired thumbs? And communication stands in line behind speed.

To conclude, Rodney Dangerfield, the famous comedian, once described his son eating alphabet soup that his wife, a horrible cook, had made. The boy separated letters to spell “HELP.”

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In the last issue, when publicizing an AO meeting, we were required to use that color in its initial. When publicizing an AO meeting, we would recognize that an AO meeting was for the Academy of Osteointegration, an implant group, as compared to an AO meeting, which would be for Alph Omega, a dental fraternity group. Also, we would know that AAP represents the American Academy of Periodontics, which would not be confused with the AAP, or the American Association of Prosthodontics. Unfortunately, unless we have a color chart, we will be just as confused, but it will be much more colorful.

This is only a suggestion and any thoughts or other solutions would be received and considered for publication as well. There is an obvious problem. Let us communicate and help correct it.

To conclude, Rodney Dangerfield, the famous comedian, once described his son eating alphabet soup that his wife, a horrible cook, had made. The boy separated letters to spell “HELP.”

Let’s help our profession abbreviate with colorful understanding, OK.

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FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Alphabet soup

Proposed: colorful communications

By David L. Hoexter, DDS, FACC, FICOI, Editor in Chief

At least the GNODY, representing the largest dental meeting in the U.S., has unique letters in its title and will not be confused with any other dental specialty. For example, I suggest verwendetung rules — over a certain number of characters. Also, texting spottishification requires not only abbreviating, but also doing it creatively, to stomp the recipient.

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