Global dental-equipment market is expected to hit $7.6 billion by 2018

According to a market report recently released by Transparency Market Research, the global dental equipment market was valued at $5.5 billion in 2011 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 4.7 percent from 2012 to 2018, to reach an estimated value of $7.6 billion in 2018.

**Diagnostics, treatment drive growth**

The market growth is primarily attributed to the advancement in diagnostic and treatment technologies, such as dental lasers, leading to faster healing, minimal pain, reduced chair time and more precise diagnosis.

In addition, growing global awareness about the role of dentistry in aesthetics coupled with increasing disposable income of patients is also feeding the growth in the dental equipment market.

The trend of patients migrating to developing countries such as India, in search of better and cheaper dental treatment, referred to as dental tourism, is also fostering growth in the global market.

**Incomes and dental-health awareness both increasing**

According to the report, rising disposable incomes of patients coupled with growing dental care awareness will drive the dental equipment market in the developing Asian countries.

In the developed regions of North America and Western Europe, market growth will be driven mainly by the aging population possessing a desire to retain natural tooth structure.

In 2011, North America was the leader in terms of market share and is expected to maintain its leadership position in 2018. This can be attributed to the rapid adoption of advanced technologies such as CAD/CAM, along with relatively higher dental-health awareness across the population.

**Europe gaining on North America**

However, the European market is expected to grow at the highest compound annual growth rate — at more than 5 percent from 2012 to 2018. Factors such as the aging population in Western Europe and migration of patients from Western Europe to Eastern Europe for availing affordable dental treatments will be responsible for the higher growth rate.

The dental systems and parts sector held majority share of the market in 2011 at 35 percent, because of its wide range of applications useful in the various steps of dental treatments, such as diagnosis using cone-beam CT systems and treatment using instrument delivery systems, electrosurgical equipment, vacuums and compressors.

Within the global dental systems and parts market, cone-beam CT systems are expected to be the fastest growing product type.

This is because these systems use a focused X-ray generation mechanism that reduces exposure to radiation compared with their conventional counterparts. In addition, the resultant image is more precise and has better diagnostic value.

**Fastest growing dental-equipment market segment: lasers**

The rapid adoption of dental lasers, which are capable of making dental procedures practically painless, thereby increasing patient compliance, is helping to make dental lasers the fastest growing segment of the overall dental equipment global market.

Danaher Corp. led the market in terms of market share in 2011 because of its extensive product portfolio and its wide presence in the developed North American and European regions.

Some other key players in this market include Sirona Dental Systems, A-dec Inc., CareStream Health, GC Corp., Planmeca Oy and Biolase Inc.


(Source: Transparency Market Research)