Endodontic rumours

Some dentists think NHS funding for Endodontics is ‘laughable’. But is it a fact or just Chinese whispers that some GDPs are opting for extractions instead of endodontics because of budget constrictions? If this is true, what are the implications? *Dental Tribune* investigates

Endodontics is often identified as one of the most technically demanding procedures in general dental practice, dealing as it does, with tooth pulp health surrounding the root.

Some dentists claim that the technical know-how required for complex root-canal treatment is not acknowledged by the NHS, which classes complex endodontic treatment under the same band as fillings.

A dentists’ questionnaire on website, bassettlaw.gov.uk put forward the following: ‘We are now target driven – we have to earn a certain number of UDAs per year. In the past we simply provided the treatment required and got paid for it. Now, we get the same UDAs if a patient needs one filling or six extractions, eight fillings and three root treatments. It is obvious that dentists have a disinclination to accept patients with dreadful mouths.

‘There should be a more flexible approach to UDAs and poor mouths should attract more. UDAs should be awarded in relation to the treatment provided’.

Dr Shiv Pabary, the principal of six practices across Newcastle and Gateshead, which have been established over 20 years, says the situation is complicated. He says: ‘With regard to endodontics, the way the contract is set up, it is assigned to Band 2. But to do treatment properly can take up to 90 minutes and be very demanding. I don’t know what the evidence is that dentists are opting for extractions in practice, but the current system definitely discourages dentists from saving teeth.

‘There should be a more flexible approach to UDAs and poor mouths should attract more. UDAs should be awarded in relation to the treatment provided.”

Dr Shiv Pabary, the principal of six practices across Newcastle and Gateshead, which have been established over 20 years, says the situation is complicated. He says: ‘With regard to endodontics, the way the contract is set up, it is assigned to Band 2. But to do treatment properly can take up to 90 minutes and be very demanding. I don’t know what the evidence is that dentists are opting for extractions in practice, but the current system definitely discourages dentists from saving teeth.

‘There should be a more flexible approach to UDAs and poor mouths should attract more. UDAs should be awarded in relation to the treatment provided.”

The very best products, expertise, support and service brought to you on a plate

For more information or to place an order please call 0800 169 9692 or visit www.practiceworks.co.uk

© PracticeWorks Limited 2009

PracticeWorks

Practice Management Software

and Digital Imaging Systems

Our team at PracticeWorks are recognised for their expertise in dental technology, from installation through to support and maintenance, whether it’s the most advanced practice management software or the most innovative digital imaging systems.

We have over 70,000 software installations worldwide to prove it. We also developed the first intraoral sensor, ‘RVG’, which started the digital radiography revolution.

And when you buy a PracticeWorks product you also buy great support. Our trainers, engineers and helpdesk staff are always on hand to ensure you get the most from our products and services

So not only do you get the very best service at all times, you also get peace of mind from knowing that your satisfaction is our top priority.