Dentine hypersensitivity solution

Colgate has come up with a solution for dentine hypersensitivity relief – a condition which affects nearly 60 per cent of people. Colgate presented its Pro-Argin technology at the 2009 British Dental Association conference held in Glasgow.

Pro-Argin technology uses a combination of an amino acid, arginine and an insoluble calcium compound, calcium carbonate, to seal open dentine tubules and help block the transmission of heat, cold, air and pressure stimuli to pain receptors within teeth. Colgate has added the technology to a new product, Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief, an in-surgery desensitising polishing paste with Pro-Argin technology.

Dentine hypersensitivity is thought to affect up to 57 per cent of patients worldwide. Current treatment methods include the use of high concentration fluoride or potassium salts. Although with these, patients generally continue to experience dentine hypersensitivity.

Dr. Mark Wolff, chair of the department of cariology and comprehensive care and associate dean for pre-doctoral clinical education at New York University College of Dentistry, said: ‘Correct diagnosis and effective treatment are critical to relieving this condition, which can seriously impact a patient’s quality of life. There is still a need for fast, lasting relief in the dental office.’

He added: ‘Pro-Argin technology will make dentine hypersensitivity a patient complaint that can be easily addressed and managed as part of an overall treatment plan.’

Arginine is an amino acid naturally found in saliva that provides naturally protective oral health benefits. Research has shown that the positively charged arginine in the Pro-Argin technology binds to the negatively charged dentine surface and helps attract a calcium-rich layer into the dentine tubules to effectively plug and seal them. Arginine triggers occlusion of the dentine tubules, which remains intact even after exposure to acids, helping to prevent transmission of pain-producing stimuli.

Professor Roger Ellwood, director of clinical research (Europe) at Colgate-Palmolive said: ‘Our Pro-Argin technology not only reinforces Colgate’s commitment to R&D but revolutionises the way dentine hypersensitivity will be treated and prevented.’

The new Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief desensitising paste with Pro-Argin technology is clinically proven to provide immediate relief sensitivity that lasts for four weeks after a single application. It can be used before or after dental procedures, such as prophylaxis and scaling. When applied prior to a professional dental cleaning, the desensitising paste will provide a significant reduction in dentine hypersensitivity measured immediately following the dental cleaning as compared to a control prophylaxis paste.

For further information call the Colgate Customer Care Team on 01485 401 901 or visit www.colgateprofessional.co.uk.

Wimbledon in surgery

Scottish dentist had five television screens installed in his surgery so people could watch Andy Murray in action at Wimbledon while having their teeth out.

Cosmetic dentists Lubiju in Leith in Edinburgh had £3,000 worth of 26” flatscreen Samsung TV’s installed in five suites in the surgery for the start of Wimbledon.

The television screens were installed above the dentist’s chair so the patient could watch the TV while being treated.

Cosmetic dentist Dr Biju Krishnan, who co-founded Lubiju with dental partner Dr Lubinino do Rego said: ‘Even in this day and age, there are people who still have nerves over the dentist, so watching the TV can help take their mind off things – it’s about distracting them from the work at hand and watching TV is great for that.

‘Everyone was asking to watch Wimbledon though as they wanted to follow the progress of Andy Murray or see how his competitors are doing.

‘Fortunately no one got too carried away yet cheering in the chair or raising their arms in celebration while I was in their mouth or anything like that.”
Colgate launches oral health month

Colgate launched its oral health month at the recent British Dental Association conference. This year the campaign is being run by the manufacturer Colgate, in partnership with the British Dental Association.

The theme for this campaign is ‘A thumbs up for your oral health’. The Department of Health’s evidence-based toolkit for prevention: Delivering Better Oral Health will form the basis of the Colgate Oral Health Month 2009 Continuing Professional Development programme, and offers the entire dental team the opportunity to participate.

Colgate Oral Health Month 2009 practice packs contain educational materials, motivational stickers, patient samples and materials, which will enable dental teams to create their own display to drive awareness of oral health within their practices. Participating practices are invited to share their displays by submitting photographs for a chance to win an exclusive team-building day.

Colgate Oral Health Month 2009 will run throughout the whole month of September. During this time, a dental road show will travel around the major cities in the UK with hygienists giving tips on oral health and demonstrating appropriate brushing techniques.

Colgate is once again looking to partner with dental professionals in delivering prevention in practice. If you have not been involved in Colgate Oral Health Month before and would like to register to receive a Colgate Oral Health Month pack for your practice, please call Colgate on 0845 257 5486. Please note that one pack per practice will be delivered at the end of August, subject to availability.

Gaining the best skills

Educational resources provider, Smile-on, is now giving dental professionals the chance to gain excellent clinical photography skills.

Its Clinical Photography Course by Chris Orr, is accessible on-line or as a CD-ROM, and is designed to be easily incorporated into and around the working day. It introduces the role of clinical photography in effective risk management and explores straightforward solutions to treatment monitoring and how to benefit from robust medico-legal protection.

Marketing manager for Smile-on, Laura Mckenzie said: ‘Digital cameras are now in common use and with the right approach, dental practices can unlock the astonishing opportunities of this technology. Working with Chris Orr, Smile-on is enabling dental professionals to get to grips with their digital cameras.’

Providing two hours of CPD, the course lets participants discover how to keep patients fully informed using high quality images, and how to support comprehensive clinical audits.

The course looks at how to get great image results, focusing on eight key clinical areas, and participants will receive non-obligatory advice on available cameras and the latest in digital imaging.

With excellent clinical photography skills, participants will be able to accurately record treatment progress and development, create ‘baseline’ records of pre-existing conditions, enjoy a higher standard of referral correspondence and use the images to support professional development.

For more information call 020 7400 8089 or email info@smile-on.com.

Introduction to S4S

It is not often that a commercial dental laboratory can offer a truly comprehensive service to those clinicians that are actively involved in the treatment of TMD problems. However, S4S are just such a laboratory, and they were one of several commercial laboratories that exhibited their services at the recent BDA Conference in Glasgow.

What makes S4S different is the fact that it can cater for virtually all the needs of those practitioners who are actively involved in the treatment of patients that suffer from TMD related problems such as bruxism, TMD pain, nigh and occlusal dysfunction.

S4S was established in 2005 by co-owners, Matt Everatt and Neil Bullemont, and their appearance at the BDA Conference represented one of their first forays into the dental laboratory arena, and this has proved extremely successful for them.

The laboratory has built an enviable reputation as a provider of custom-made laboratory fabricated appliances, such as Michigan and Tanner splints, orthodontic appliances and highly effective Anti-Snoring devices.

This has also been further enhanced by their appointment as sole UK distributors for the very successful NTI-tss appliance range.

‘This product has been around for some time, and is well known worldwide. The NTI-tss appliance allows dental practitioners to provide patients with a simple and quickly fabricated splint-like appliance that can be fitted at the chairside, and is very useful in fulfilling the practitioners requirement for an immediate temporary splint or de-programming device. NTI-tss Free CPD Practical Class Matt Everatt, Technical Director, is currently conducting CPD sessions for Dentists who wish to use NTI-tss or learn more about treatment with the device.

GDPs can arrange a visit to their own practice and the whole team can benefit from the presentation on how NTI-tss can effectively treat bruxism. (Contact S4S for your Free CPD session)

New treatment modality

The BDA Conference provided S4S with a lunch pad for a completely new concept in bruxism and TMJ treatment options - Grindcare is a ground-breaking treatment modality that can provide both a highly accurate assessment of TMD muscle dysfunctions, and can also be used to treat TMD dysfunction by way of its biofeedback mechanism. S4S have now been appointed as the UK distributors for this product, and it is their intention to establish Grindcare Centres throughout the UK that will be able to make this device available for patients to use in their own home environment.

Grindcare is a medical device that uses EMG measurement and biofeedback that will help the practitioner in the over all treatment of Bruxism and related TMD problems. The compact and stylish Grindcare unit was developed in Denmark, and uses state-of-the-art technology. Grindcare is diagnostically valuable, as well as offering treatment, it can record 30 nights consecutively taking data on the patients bruxing habits, such as frequency and intensity of clench and grinds.

Electrodes are attached to the stimulator and these are then attached using small pads to the area of the patients temporals muscle. Electrical EMG signals are measured when the muscle moves and an electrical impulse is then emitted which causes the muscle to relax. The Grindcare unit can be used during the patients sleeping hours thus enabling therapy throughout the period of nocturnal bruxing. A charger unit, and holder, safety cord and gel pads complete the Grindcare package, and unlike many other electronic pulse treatment units, Grindcare is very compact, and easy to operate.

Treatment centres

DCP led clinics

It is the intention of S4S to establish Grindcare centres throughout the UK, and the laboratory will provide all the required training, education and back-up that will be necessary for clinicians to operate these centres effectively. This is an ideal opportunity to get DCPs actively involved in the treatment of Bruxism. Grindcare can easily be fitted and operated by DCPs, freeing up the Dentists time and surgery time, making for more cost effective treatment options.

With the introduction of the Grindcare concept will advance the prospects of successful TMD therapy, and will also offer considerable opportunities for lucrative practice marketing.

The incorporation of Grindcare therapy in conjunction with other treatment modalities such as splint therapy should therefore allow fully comprehensive treatment programmes to be offered to patients, even in the most extreme cases.

Relief from the daily grind

Discussing the virtues of S4S’s treatment options and introducing the new Grindcare concept which aims to advance the prospects of successful treatment for bruxism

As a result of their appearance at the BDA Conference in Glasgow, S4S have received an extremely positive response from dental professionals to their innovative laboratory services and the Grindcare concept, and welcome all enquiries regarding Grindcare, and requests for detailed information of their inclusion/TMJ educational courses programme, the NTI-tss range and their comprehensive laboratory appliance service. All enquiries can be directed to Matt Everatt, S4S (UK) Ltd, Newton House, 752A, Chesterfield Road, SHEFFIELD, S8 0NE. Ring 0114 250 0176, fax 0114 258 6070 or visit www.34dental.com.