Chewing paan

Bangladeshi people in the UK could be at a higher risk of getting oral cancer due to their liking for chewing paan, a mixture of tobacco and areca nut, according to research. The habit of chewing paan may have led to an ‘alarming’ rise in the number of cases of oral cancer in East London, according to researchers at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. A team from the Centre for Clinical and Diagnostic Oral Sciences used a mobile dental unit to tour areas of East Lon-
don, targeting the Bangladeshi community, especially those who rarely visited a dentist.

Oral cancer

Oral cancer rates for both men and women of all ages, have increased by more than 65 per cent since records be-
gan in 1975, according to Cancer Research UK. The charity revealed that oral cancer rates in the UK for men in their 40s have gone up by 28 per cent since the mid 1990s, and rates for women in their 40s have increased by 24 per cent in the same period.

Hypnotist hired

A dentist in Scotland has hired a hypnotist to help pa-
tients overcome their fear of dentists. Patients at the Edinburgh-based Luhuju can now opt to have treatment under hypno-
thesis, instead of having the traditional needle. Dentist Dr Biju Krishnan said: ‘What the hypnotherapy of-
ers is that it puts the person back in control of those fears, it lets them feel that they are in a safe place and in control.’

Dentists still ‘poor relation’ to GPs

On average dentists in England and Wales is just over £89,000, according to figures from the NHS Information Centre. This is slightly higher than the average GP earns. However the figures revealed that for some dentists, earnings can be much higher with one in 20 dentists earning more than £200,000 between 2007 and 2008 and nearly 400 earning more than £100,000.

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