Call me Dr, Dentist Dr

British Dental Association survey results show overwhelming clinician support for use of the courtesy title Dr

Four-fifths of dentists think it is appropriate to continue to use the courtesy title of ‘Dr’ according to a poll carried out by the British Dental Association (BDA). The survey, which was carried out as part of a discussion hosted on the communities section of the BDA website between late July and early September, attracted high levels of interest, being viewed more than 2,800 times.

The results of the poll will be used to emphasise the profession’s concerns in the BDA’s formal response to the General Dental Council’s consultation on the issue.

“This issue has generated unprecedented levels of interest from contributors to the BDA’s online communities. Participants have sent a very strong signal about their wish to continue using the title Dr. We have listened to them and will convey the strength of that feeling to the GDC in our response to its consultation on this issue,” Dr Susie Sanderson, Chair of the BDA’s Executive Board, said.

“It is clear from the contributions to this forum that, as long as it is made clear that the individual in question is a dentist, patients do not seem to be confused by the use of the title.”

A spokesman for the Department of Health said: “The title of ‘Doctor’ is not a protected title, so you don’t have to be a medical practitioner to use it.”

He added, however, that there was a provision in the Dentists Act 1984, which prevented dentists from using any title or description to suggest a qualification that they did not hold. While dentists are not prohibited entirely from calling themselves Dr, the ASA says that to do so without also making it obvious that they are not doctors is a clear breach of advertising laws.

The survey found that half of dentists placed top, and the Clearstep or Six-Month Smiles, which one in seven said was the top performer.

Lose weight with milk

The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition has found that milk drinkers lose more weight than people who do not drink milk. Regardless of an individual’s diet, the study showed that people who had the highest intake of calcium from dairy products had a greater chance at losing weight. However, milk is not just beneficial for those who wish to lose weight. Dental health experts have emphasised for many years that milk is a good source of calcium, which can help strengthen teeth and bones. Nevertheless, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that milk drinkers lose more weight than people who do not drink milk.

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News in Brief

Britons shun invasive smile makeovers

Dentists are now performing far less veneer procedures than they were two years ago according to the BDA. Less invasive techniques, such as quick-result braces, are on the rise as patients try to preserve their natural teeth. The survey found that half of all cosmetic dentists named the Inman Aligner, a removable brace, as the first choice in quick-result braces. Other high scorers were the Invisalign brace, which 22 per cent of dentists placed top, and the Clearstep or Six-Month Smiles, which one in seven said was the top performer.

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