The luxurious Pennyhill Park Hotel and Spa in Surrey was the setting for a daylong symposium to mark the UK launch of Septodont’s new product, Biodentine last month.

More than 80 key opinion leaders and leading dentists from across the country came to hear how this cutting edge technology, which, for the first time, offers a bioactive substitute to dentine, could revolutionise their practice.

The symposium began with general manager of Septodont Holding Olivier Schillier introducing Biodentine as the product of a love story and a 12-year development into a dentine replacement set to change the face of restorative dentistry. Prof Trevor Burke was next to the podium. Acting as chair for the day’s proceedings, Trevor set the scene by discussing the change in thinking in caries management towards a more minimally invasive procedure where only a percentage of the caries is removed then a suitable material is used to seal in the remaining caries. He posed a question for delegates to ponder as they listened to the day’s speakers: Can one solution be a substitute for all restorative materials, ie MTA and amalgam?

Next to speak was Prof Gilles Richard, who is R&D manager for Septodont France and the developer of Biodentine. Prof Richard’s presentation, From Scientific Concept to Clinical Use, detailed the origins of Biodentine and the journey it took from conception to launch as a commercial product.

He explained that the goal to developing the product was to be able to treat many pathologies with a single solution. Biodentine began as an idea in 1998 when a dentist and a material developer contacted Septodont with the concept. Prof Richard then detailed the next 12 years as a whirlwind of development, testing and industrialisation before the present situation of launching Biodentine to market.

Prof Richard then went into detail about the composition of the product. He explained that it was an active biosilicate technology composed of tricalcium silicate. This is mixed with water to create the correct consistency.

Following him was Prof Pierre Colon, Head of Endodontics at Paris University. In his presentation Biodentine: a material worth discovering, he reviewed some of the clinical lab-based studies that had been undertaken. I must admit to his presentation being something akin to an advanced chemistry lesson for me with the amount of chemical formulae he showed, but his aim was to explain how Biodentine worked at a chemical level. He described the chemical reaction between the powder and...
water as similar to that of concrete and many comparisons in the studies he described were made to other materials (for example, ProRoot MTA).

After a fantastic lunch (with the amount of food available, I can see why the venue is the base for the England Rugby team for matches!) it was time to hear more about the use of Biodentine, especially in the field of restorative and primary care. The last clinical speaker, Dr Julian Webber, looked at the use of Biodentine in a specific discipline - endodentistry. He began Biodentine, an Endodontic Perspective by detailing his six-month experience in using the product. He gave a very honest appraisal of Biodentine, discussing the advantages of a longer setting time of 10 minutes being beneficial to endodontists, but also that the fact that it is very dependent on how it is mixed was a potential problem. He showed some cases which he had used the product on and gave many practical hints and tips on using it in endo.

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General manager for Septodont Ltd UK, Mike Cann, closed the symposium by highlighting that Septodont was not just a leader in dental anaesthetics but also in dental materials. Commenting that the symposium marked the launch of Biodentine in the UK, he said: “We are delighted to share the unique advantages of Biodentine™ with so many distinguished experts from the UK and overseas.”

By Robert A. Lowe, D.D.S. Once in awhile a product comes along that truly fills a need, and this is one of them. “I love the Composi-Tight® System. Every once in awhile a product comes along that truly fills a need, and this is one of them. Thanks for a great product.”

Dr. David Sickinger Dover, Ohio