The heart of dentistry

Andrew McCance offers some advice on how to motivate patients to develop better oral health

The state of the nation’s oral health is a concern for all those involved in the dental profession. Finding ways to improve the standard of oral hygiene regimes through new techniques, clearing aids and initiatives, has played a role in raising awareness about the importance of brushing twice a day and cleaning interdentally, as well as regular visits to the dentist.

Encouraging patients to maintain a regular cycle of examinations is certainly a challenge for clinicians, especially in troubled economic times such as these. With the prospect of another shake-up in the contractual arrangements between PCTs and practice owners, developing new and improved ways to improve the standard of oral healthcare regime?

Finding the right arrangement for patients to visit their dentist regularly to maintain the positive results they have achieved is certainly appealing for many patients. This market does not have to overcome.

Regular assessment appointments form an integral part of the system. These not only give the opportunity for clinicians to assess the progress of the treatment, they also provide the chance to monitor more closely the overall oral health of the patient: an important aspect of preventative dentistry.

Looking after the oral health of our patients is at the heart of dentistry. With the Clearstep System, clinicians have access to an innovative system that tackles a range of malocclusions in a way that allows patients to keep up their usual daily oral health care routines with ease.

One of the advantages of removable appliances is that a normal cleaning routine can be maintained, with the positioner removed to allow access for brushing and interdental cleaning.

The benefits are not just subjective and abstract. According to a recent study, both general dental practitioners and orthodontists rate the positive effect of orthodontic treatment on periodontal health as quite high. So clinicians have a way of helping to improve not only a patient’s smile, but also their dental health.

It would seem that the overriding influence in preventing gum disease would appear to be patient motivation and so the argument returns to the initial question: how to encourage patients to visit their dentist regularly, and to maintain an effective oral healthcare regime?

About the author

Dr Andrew McCance Since qualifying to dentistry from Glasgow University, Dr Andrew McCance has gained a wealth of experience in multi-disciplinary practice. In the mid 1990s, Dr McCance began to develop the Clearstep brace, based on the demands of the 4,000 patients treated annually in his specialist practices. For more information, call the OAT Laboratory & Diagnostic Facility on 01342 337910, email info@clearstep.co.uk or visit www.clearstep.co.uk.

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