‘Comedy’ dentures

Americans think comic star, Ricky Gervais, has such bad teeth they must be comedy dentures. Gervais who plays a dentist in his new film ‘Ghost Town’ said he was ‘dismayed’ when an American journalist said his teeth were so awful they must be fake.

The star who found fame through the TV series The Office said he told the journalist ‘These are my own teeth. Would I be wearing joke teeth to an interview? I also felt I had to point out, I’m not wearing a fat suit either. She was a bit embarrassed.’

Eroding enamel

The use of low pH mouthwashes erodes dental enamel causing the teeth to become more sensitive, according to recent study. Researchers at the Division of Restorative Dentistry in Bristol, found people with less enamel complained of much greater sensitivity to hot and cold.

The study looked at three low pH mouthwashes. Results showed that enamel loss in situ and in vitro was progressive over time with all three mouthwashes.

As a result of the study, the researchers recommended that low pH mouthwashes should not be considered for long term or continuous use and should never be used prior to brushing.

BACD: research foreign dentists

People thinking of travelling overseas for dental treatment are being urged to shop around in Britain before going abroad.

The British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD) has warned potential patients that they need to carefully research the dentist who may be carrying out the work.

This is because they will be away for a limited amount of time and as such any procedures may be done ‘a bit more quickly’ than they would be in the UK, said the BACD.

Tif Qurashi, board member of the BACD recommends that people check out the foreign dentist’s portfolio.

Pay rises

NHS Employers have called for pay rises for dentists in 2009/10 to be limited to two per cent.

It argues that a balance has to be struck between fairness to staff and affordability.

In evidence submitted to the Doctors’ and Dentists’ Review Body, NHS Employers said it recognised that ‘inflationary pressures and efficiency expectations are putting pressure on services and any unfunded cost pressures from pay could threaten patient care’.

Employers within the NHS believe an award of two per cent would be affordable for dentists who are employed by the NHS, providing there is a corresponding uplift in the funding allocation for 2009/10.

NHS Employers also argue that there should be no change to the General Dental Services (GDS) contract, in the light of increases in the 2008/09 award (recommended 3.4 per cent) against a backdrop of decreasing expenses for dental practices.

Ex-dental chief tells lies

The former chairman of the British Dental Association (BDA) has been struck off by the General Dental Council for fraudulently claiming £51,000 in expenses from the BDA.

Trevor Mann, of Sutton in Surrey, claimed expenses for meetings at the BDA from October 2005 to July last year.

He said that he worked at a surgery in Byfleet, Surrey, but an investigation found there was no trace of the practice.

The professional conduct committee report said: ‘Mr Mann quite clearly lied to Mr Ward about the scope and status of his practice’.

It added: ‘From 6 October 2005 to 27 July 2007, Mr Mann inappropriately and dishonestly claimed from the BDA a professional allowances stating that he had read the BDA expenses policy and was entitled to claim sessions for Monday to Friday. This too was misleading and dishonest.

Mr Mann’s dishonesty was compounded by the fact that the claims were made over a sustained period of time and were not isolated incidents.’

The report concluded: ‘The Committee hereby directs the Registrar to erase the name of Trevor Irvin John Mann from the Dentist Register’.

A spokesman for the BDA said: ‘The British Dental Association notes the conclusion of the case it referred to the General Dental Council. All of the money inappropriately claimed from the BDA has been repaid. The BDA now considers that the case is closed.’

Mr Mann did not attend the hearing at the GDC.

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