X-ray warning of unsafe scanners

Handheld scanners found to be dangerously faulty

Bruce Petrie, of the MHRA’s Medical Devices Enforcement Team, said: “It’s vital that dentists and dental staff do not buy these dental X-ray machines from eBay or other websites because they are not approved and not safe for dentists or patients.

“We have seized 15 of these X-ray machines from the distributor and we are working with eBay and other governments to ensure dentists and patients are protected. We urge anyone who has bought one of these machines to contact us on the MHRA’s hotline on 020 5808 6701 or at counterfeit@mhra.gsi.gov.uk.”

The scanners were found to expose users and patients to 10 times the normal level of radiation – dramatically increasing the risks of cancer and organ damage,” said the report in the Daily Mirror. Investigators also found that the scanners had botched wiring and a lack of lead insulation to protect patients and users against radiation leakage.

At least one dentist in the UK is known to have used the device, and many others have said to have been interested in buying one.
Government crackdown on binge drinking

Ministers are proposing a minimum price of 45p per unit of alcohol sold in England and Wales as part of a package of measures aimed at reducing problem drinking and its associated risks for health and society as a whole.

In addition to the introduction of minimum pricing, the Home Office wants a ban on multi-buy promotions, such as two-for-one offers, and a new health-related objective for alcohol licensing.

This latter measure would mean licensing authorities would be able to consider alcohol-related health harms when managing problems relating to the number of premises selling alcohol in their area.

Damian Green, the government's policing minister, commented: ‘The evidence is clear - the availability of cheap alcohol contributes to harmful levels of drinking. ‘It can’t be right that it is possible to purchase a can of beer for as little as 20p.’

Figures suggest irresponsible drinking costs the taxpayer £21 billion per year, with hospitals admitting 1.2 million patients with alcohol-related problems last year alone.

Australian example should be followed, charity urges

On Saturday 1 December, Australia became the first country to strip all tobacco products of branding and replace them with graphic health warnings designed to reduce the number of tobacco-related deaths.

The new law means all cigarettes will now be sold in olive green packets containing graphic images warning of the consequences of smoking, legislation that organisers of Mouth Cancer Action Month believe should be enforced in the UK.

The news comes on the final day of the campaign, and is welcomed by Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE.

Dr Carter said: “Any legislation designed to put people off smoking, particularly young people taking up the habit, is one the Foundation fully supports.

“These particular images are extremely graphic. If people continue to turn a blind eye to the dangers posed by smoking, they are putting themselves at real risk from a number of diseases and should see what damage smoking does.”

Examples of the new packaging

Aspire Academy shapes ‘leaders of tomorrow’ at The Dentistry Show

The all new ‘Aspire Academy’ will be running its first conference for newly qualified dentists on Friday 1st March at the 2013 Dentistry Show.

Hosted by Raj Rattan, the free to attend conference will offer clinical and professional insight into being a modern dentist and a future practice owner, with presentations from Nilesh Parmar and Prem-Pal Sethi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh.

Five sessions, each with a mini-ipad up for grabs, together with a host of online content and offers from Smile-On will be available for delegates who attend, followed by networking drinks and access to a discounted after dinner ticket for the “The Big Heart Party” in aid of Heart Your Smile.

Dentists who qualified between 2007 and 2011 can register to access a free delegate place at www.thedentistryshow.co.uk/aspire

Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board announced

Professor David Heymann has been confirmed as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board.

He is currently Chairman of the Health Protection Agency and in his new role will Chair the Advisory Board that supports the Chief Executive of Public Health England in delivering its mission to protect and improve the nation’s health, address inequalities and improve the health of the poorest fastest.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said: “I am delighted to confirm Professor David Heymann as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board. He brings a wealth of experience to the role as a public health scientist and doctor at both national and international level.”

Professor David Heymann said: “I feel very privileged to be appointed as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board. Public Health England offers an unrivalled opportunity to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the nation.

“I am looking forward to continuing to work with Duncan and his team and am confident that we have the expertise to support local government as they take on their new responsibility for improving and protecting the public’s health, as well as working in partnership with the NHS and other stakeholders locally and nationally.”

Chief Executive of Public Health England Duncan Selbie said: “I am greatly looking forward to working with David in pursuit of our mission and ambition.”

Professor Heymann will take up post formally as Chair of Public Health England's Advisory Board on 1 April 2013, when Public Health England becomes fully operational.

Alcohol could see a minimum 45p per unit price
Following an open and rigorous recruitment exercise, David Prior has emerged as the Government’s preferred candidate for the post of Chair of the Care Quality Commission.

The Secretary of State for Health has today invited the Health Select Committee to hold a public pre-appointment scrutiny hearing and report on the candidate’s suitability for the post, in line with proposals for scrutiny of key positions in which Parliament has an interest.

After a hearing, the Committee will set out its views on the candidate’s suitability for this post. The Secretary of State will then consider the conclusions of the Committee’s report carefully before deciding whether or not to proceed with the appointment.

David Prior is Chairman of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Foundation Trust and Chair of an Academy School. David qualified as a barrister and spent ten years in the Steel Industry. Between 1995-2002 he served in a number of political roles, including as MP for North Norfolk, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Conservative Party and a member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee. He has been Chair of a wide range of private companies.

David Prior

Editorial comment

Well, here we are... the last Dental Tribune of 2012! My, how time has flown this year.

We have seen a lot happen this year – not only for the profession but at Dental Tribune as well. One notable event for the DT team was the British Dental Editors’ Forum Young Writer of the Year Award. This year our very own Laura Hatton received this accolade, the first time that a non-academic has won the award. If you didn’t read her award-winning series on Sir Harry Baldwin but would like to, drop me an email and I’ll happily send them to you.

We also saw the establishment of an editorial advisory board. This collection of people covering all sectors of the profession has been a great support for the team at DT and I would like to extend my thanks to them for everything they’ve done this year, in fact they were so good I intend to work them harder next year!

I would also like to thank the readers and advertisers who help make DT happen. Without our supporters, we would not be able to produce Dental Tribune to the quality and frequency that we do. Without our readers, there would be no-one to send it to. So my heartfelt thanks!

So, all of us at DT would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We will see you in 2013! ☺

Do you have an opinion or something to say on any Dental Tribune UK article? Or would you like to write your own opinion for our guest comment page?

If so don’t hesitate to write to: The Editor, Dental Tribune UK Ltd, 4th Floor, Treasure House, 19-21 Hatton Garden, London, EC1 8BA
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Preferred CQC chair announced
Vitamin D could prevent tooth decay

A new review shows that vitamin D could help prevent dental caries or tooth decay.

The review, published in the December issue of Nutrition Reviews, encompassed 24 controlled clinical trials, spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, on approximately 5,000 children in several countries.

“My main goal was to summarise the clinical trial database so that we could take a fresh look at this vitamin D question,” said Dr. Philippe Hujoel, an oral biologist and the first woman late Professor Geddes, who was a pioneering dental surgeon and a newly expanded central decontamination unit, and a virtual microsurgery system, and a virtual microsurgery system.

To complete the package of enhancements at the hospital the University of Glasgow have also invested £500,000 in transforming restorative dental clinics, a full 3D project system, and a virtual microsurgery system.

The new teaching suite is to be named the Dorothy Geddes Multi-media Facility in memory of the late Professor Geddes, who was a pioneering dental surgeon and oral biologist and the first woman to hold a professorship in dentistry at a UK university.

At a special event to officially open the new facilities NHSGGC Chairman Andrew Robertson said: “The benefit of these investments will reach many thousands of dental patients treated each year. The newly refurbished and expanded decontamination unit will serve not only the dental hospital but also 17 community dental clinics in and around Glasgow offering the very highest standard of instrument decontamination available.

The refurbishment includes a newly expanded central decontamination unit, new restorative dentistry clinics, a full 3D projection system, and a virtual microcopy suite.

Patients put off dentist due to cost

According to a new survey, almost one third of people are putting off going to the dentist because of the cost.

The survey, carried out on behalf of the Irish Dental Association, found that there has been an increase in the number of patients who wait until they experience pain to visit a dentist.

Three quarters of dentists surveyed said they have seen an increase in the number of patients who arrive at a surgery in pain while 95 per cent of dentists have seen a marked increase in the number of extractions performed.

Significantly, 91 per cent of dentists have seen a decrease in patients who wait until they experience pain to visit a dentist.

Dr Peter Gannon of the IDA said the results were alarming.

“The simple preventive treatments that were available were key to maintaining good dental health for many people. It is worrying to see such problems so soon and I am concerned that we are returning to the days of extractions and dentures” he said.

Glasgow Dental School gets £2.5m makeover

Dental services and teaching at the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School have completed a £2.5m refurbishment programme.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) have invested almost £2m on a significant project to modernise the hospital’s restorative dental clinics and expand the central instrument decontamination unit.

To complete the package of enhancements at the hospital the University of Glasgow have also invested £500,000 in transforming a traditional biochemistry laboratory into a multi-media teaching facility.

The new teaching suite is to be named the Dorothy Geddes Multi-media Facility in memory of the late Professor Geddes, who was a pioneering dental surgeon and oral biologist and the first woman to hold a professorship in dentistry at a UK university.

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The refurbishment includes a newly expanded central decontamination unit, new restorative dentistry clinics, a full 3D projection system, and a virtual microscopy suite.

Money is an issue for dental patients

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Microcracks in jawbone can lead to stronger bones

A recent article in the Journal of Oral Implantology suggests that introducing microcracks in the jawbone can stimulate bone growth.

The article describes an approach to oral implant surgery for patients with severely atrophic jaws that stimulates bone activation of the future implant location.

Dental patients with severely atrophic jaws have poor quality and quantity of bone in which to place an implant. Using the Osteotensor, a purpose-designed instrument, a series of microcracks are created in the jawbone. A biological response then takes place: proteins, stem cells, and other growth factors work to regenerate the bone.

After 45 to 90 days, implant surgery can take place. Solid titanium disks are implanted into the bone bed and covered by biomaterial. A rigid, screw-fixed prosthesis can then be immediately loaded and become functional.

The authors of the article report the case of a 74-year-old woman treated with this technique after she declined to undergo a bone grafting procedure. Forty-five days after microcracks induced bone activation, the same Osteotensor instrument could no longer penetrate bone at 35 of 42 impact sites. After 90 days, none of the sites could be penetrated. Softer, type IV bone had been transformed to harder, type II bone, and it was safe to proceed with implant surgery.

Two years later, the patient’s implants were osseointegrated, and the regenerated bone had become functional.

The technique was used on a 74-year-old patient.

Review shows the benefits of Vitamin D

A recent review shows that introducing microcracks in the jawbone can stimulate bone growth.

The review, published in the December issue of Nutrition Reviews, encompassed 24 controlled clinical trials, spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, on approximately 5,000 children in several countries.

“My main goal was to summarise the clinical trial database so that we could take a fresh look at this vitamin D question,” said Dr. Philippe Hujoel, who conducted the review.

The clinical trials he reviewed were conducted in the United States, Canada, Austria, New Zealand and Sweden. Trials were conducted in institutional settings, schools, medical and dental practices, or hospitals. The subjects were children or young adults between the ages of two and 16 years, with a weighted mean age of 10 years.

The vitamin D question takes on greater importance in the light of current public health trends. Vitamin D levels in many populations are decreasing while dental caries levels in young children are increasing.

“Whether this is more than just a coincidence is open to debate,” Hujoel said. “In the meantime, pregnant women or young mothers can do little harm by realising that vitamin D is essential to their offspring’s health. Vitamin D does lead to teeth and bones that are better mineralised.”

Hujoel added a note of caution to his findings: “One has to be careful with the interpretation of this systematic review. The trials had weaknesses which could have biased the result, and most of the trial participants lived in an era that differs profoundly from today’s environment.”
Aspire Academy - for tomorrow’s leaders
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Hosted by Raj Rattan with presentations from Nilesh Parmar & Prem-Pal Sehmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh

Register for free by 18th January and book your place alongside the leaders of tomorrow.
Lack of fixtures review could drive down value of practice

Changes to the Capital Allowances Act could affect practice owners wishing to sell up.

“You could benefit from a tax refund now as well as laying important groundwork in advance of selling your practice. The earlier one of these claims is done the better because as well as a potential tax refund, it provides additional capital allowances going forward”, said NASDAL member Nick Hancock of specialist dental accountants DT.

Failure to carry out a fixtures review could drive down the value of the practice. Nick explained: “If qualifying assets are not identified with a Section 198 election being agreed, then effectively the buyer and all subsequent owners will have no opportunity to make a capital allowance claim on qualifying fixtures going forward. This could well have a detrimental effect on the sale proceeds figure when you try and sell your property.”

All change for Careers Day 2013

A number of new features including a CV clinic, business room and hands-on demonstrations will be on offer alongside the regular mix of practical advice, lectures, and exhibition at next year’s BDA UCL Eastman Careers Day, the newly-published programme reveals.

The annual event, which takes place on 8 February at London’s Hotel Russell, gives young dentists the chance to explore a range of career options and specialisms. Each of the eight rooms at the event will offer a full programme centred around a particular theme such as general practice, specialties, business and finance, experience building, and hospitals and special care.

For the first time in 2013 the day will also include a special programme of guidance sessions for those who are studying or have passed their ORE exam and a dedicated hands-on demonstration programme where a range of experts will demonstrate new clinical techniques on phantom head simulators. There will also be a dedicated CV Clinic offering delegates the chance to get one-to-one advice with the speakers.

There will also be a panel discussion looking at the organisation of dentistry in the future. The panel will include Chief Dental Office Barry Cockcroft alongside Professor Andrew Eder, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dental Education at the Eastman Dental Institute, Elizabeth Jones, Dean of Postgraduate Dentistry for the London Deanery, and Peter Ward, Chief Executive at the BDA. The discussion will be chaired by Dr Judith Husband, Chair of Education and Ethics for the BDA’s Principal Executive Committee.

Speaking ahead of the event, Dr Judith Husband, said: ‘Those starting out on their career in dentistry will find, at the Careers Day, everything they need to help them take those essential first steps. I am pleased that we are once again working with the UCL Eastman Dental Institute to host this event.’

A full programme for the day and booking information is available on the dedicated event page on the BDA website.

Tooth agenesis linked to family history of cancer

Individuals with tooth agenesis have an increased risk of having a family history of cancer, a new study in the Journal of Dental Research has found.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine recruited 82 individuals and 528 individuals with no birth defect from the same institution to carry out the study.

Tooth agenesis was assessed in permanent teeth and was defined based on the age of the participants and when initial tooth formation should be radiographically visible.

The results showed that individuals with tooth agenesis had an increased risk of having a family history of cancer (p = 0.00006). Despite this, the researchers concluded that prospective studies are needed to confirm if tooth agenesis can be used as a risk marker for cancer.

White night for CRISIS

Members of the dental community braved the cold to gather for a fundraiser with a difference! Aptly named the Ice White party, the event saw more than 200 guests come together at the swanky Holborn House club in central London for an evening of dancing and entertainment to raise money for the homeless charity CRISIS.

Organiser of the event, dentist Nilesh R Parmar commented: ‘The Ice White party was a huge success and I am overwhelmed by the support of the entire dental community. It was an overwhelming event to organise but with help from Louise (Mannan Ltd) and Raj Bhandot (owner of the Ice White Night), we were able to really impress our guests. So far we have raised £3,261 for CRISIS with donations continuing in through the justgiving page on a daily basis. I would like to thank all my sponsors for their financial support and help with the Ice White party, and look forward to working with them again next year!’

To donate to CRISIS via the IceWhite page, go to www.justgiving.com/theice-white-xmasparty.
Wrigley oral healthcare programme appoints new global manager

IDT to launch dental academy

Denplan Announces New Life Presidents

ADI appoints official DCP Committee Member