New report says parents to blame for children’s poor oral health

By DTI

MANCHESTER, UK: A lack of knowledge about the importance of early oral health care measures and the availability of treatment among parents has led to almost every seventh child aged 8 or under in the UK having never seen a dentist, according to a new report by dental group mydentist in Manchester. The survey also found that one in ten of those children who had actually seen a dentist had at least one filling done, resulting in an estimated burden of £22 million annually for the National Health Service.

The report is in line with new findings by the Faculty of Dental Surgery of England earlier this week that oral health among the nation’s youth is worsening, with more children than ever sent to hospitals for tooth extractions owing to severe decay. While the Royal College of Surgeons has identified increasing sugar consumption as the main contributor, the mydentist report blames parents who are unaware of or fail to implement appropriate oral health care measures at home for the dental problems.

Among its findings are that only a quarter of the children of the parents surveyed brushed their teeth for the recommended two minutes twice daily. Many parents also failed to identify things that are actually beneficial to their children’s health, such as fluoride, which 13 per cent considered to have unadmitted liability despite having agreed to pay the five-figure settlement.

Despite more children in the UK suffering from dental problems, many have never been taken to a dentist. The mydentist survey was conducted among 2,000 parents throughout the UK. It found that those in Wales were most likely to take their children to see a dentist early on. Children living in the North West also scored higher in terms of personal oral hygiene, brushing their teeth for longer than youngsters in any other region.

The mydentist report is in line with a new report by leading oral surgeons found the dentist’s work to have been unprofessional. Among other things, he failed to take a radiograph to identify the risks of the procedure and to inform the patient of other treatment options. Hancock’s solicitors said. Currently working at a dental practice in Basildon, the dentist is reported to have not admitted liability despite having agreed to pay the five-figure settlement.

He has also been under surveillance by the General Dental Council on several professional charges of misconduct and poor professional performance, including allegations of not having maintained appropriate standards of infection control and having exposed patients to dental panoramic radiography without justification while working at his former practice in Southend-on-Sea between September 2010 and October 2012.

Despite affecting a vast number of people worldwide, sound epidemiologic data on halitosis is rare. While 9 in 10 cases of halitosis are attributable to tongue coating, gingivitis, periodontitis and other conditions in the oral cavity, a minority of cases are caused by systemic diseases or conditions.
Leeds collaborates over future of oral health care in Europe

By DTI

LEEDS, UK: Dental treatments cost an estimated £97 billion a year across the EU per dentists and diseases are almost entirely preventable. A new research project funded through an €6 million grant from the EU, aims to bring about a shift in dental care practices, from a focus on treating teeth by extraction and fillings to more effective oral health care treatments to prevent disease in the first place.

The four-year project will be led by the University of Leeds, in conjunction with the Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam and Heidelberg University, in collaboration with NHS England, as well as universities and dental insurers from across Europe.

Using de-identified data from millions of health records across Europe, the researchers will work with dental professionals and insurers to identify effective strategies for preventing disease in each country. Providing continuous feedback to shape best practice, a set of key performance indicators will be developed against which dentists and health care systems can measure themselves.

“The World Health Organization has said that dental diseases are the most common chronic diseases known to man. We want to change this,” said Professor Helen Whelton, Dean of the University of Leeds’s School of Dentistry and project lead. “The hope is that, by continually assessing and feeding back the performance of dental professionals and healthcare systems in keeping teeth healthy, it will foster change in practice and encourage a move to more preventive dental care.”

“We will be using secure, de-identified medical records to develop a model with a focus on preventing dental problems, which gives dentists and health systems the ability to measure their success in making patients healthier,” Whelton explained. “We will be looking at things such as how long teeth remain healthy with no need for treatment or, at country level, the amount spent on extractions each year. This information can be compared across different systems and countries.”

The project will have access to eight European patient record databases from countries including Britain, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and the Netherlands. In addition to hearing the views of professionals and insurers, the project will consult with patients in the participating countries to identify their preferences and gain their perspectives on the dental care they receive.

“This is a fantastic example of collaboration between universities, the public sector and the private sector, with the aim of improving the dental health of an entire continent, and we hope this will feed into the reform of healthcare systems globally,” Whelton concluded.

Most Brits avoid showing their teeth in photographs

By DTI

LONDON, UK: Say “cheese”? Although it is meant to make people smile, this cue apparently induces the opposite in many British people. According to a new survey, eight out of ten worry about how their teeth look in photographs, with almost every second person wishing they were whiter and cleaner. It would appear that the ever-present sparking celebrity teeth are fuelling these feelings of dental inadequacy, as 53 per cent said they feel pressured to have impeccable teeth, because of those displayed by modern celebrities and public figures.

Shying away from smiling in photographs is one thing, but the British anxiety about their teeth appears to be linked to a serious lack of oral hygiene knowledge. Of those surveyed, 47 per cent admitted that they do not even use toothpaste. One in five also admitted that they regularly use chewing gum as a substitute for brushing their teeth.

Commenting on the research, Dr Steven Preddy, Dental Clinical Director of Rupa Dental Services, said: “Worryingly, our research highlights how many people are ignoring the art of brushing their teeth properly. Modern, state-of-the-art electronic toothbrushes and interdental tools provide a wealth of different ways to clean. So there should be no excuse for not brushing for two minutes twice every day, and in conjunction with seeing a dentist regularly, we encourage people not to neglect their teeth and gums!”

In terms of UK regions, respondents from South East England were the most responsible teeth cleaners with 74 per cent brush twice daily as recommended, followed by Scotland (67 per cent) and Northern Ireland (64 per cent).

The worst offending region was Yorkshire and the Humber region, where only 53 per cent of respondents brush twice a day.
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Dental Circle meets in London to celebrate future of professional social media

By DTI

LONDON, UK: With temperatures skyrocketing last month in the capital, the organisers of Dental Circle could not have chosen a better time to hold its first major networking event. Consequently, hundreds of members of the professional social media website met in London to share ideas and celebrate the achievements of the ambitious platform.

And there was plenty to celebrate at the event sponsored by dental implant solutions provider Straumann. In just one year after launching, the site has attracted over 3,000 members, a number that might not seem high for a professional network, but one that fits in perfectly with the ethos founders Amit and Dev Patel had in mind when launching the site. Instead of being open to anyone, like Facebook or Twitter, the network works similar to exclusive social media websites like ELEQT, but without the hurdle of having to pay one’s way into it. Professionals interested in joining Dental Circle just have to be registered with the General Dental Council and want to be part of an ever-growing network of professionals.

“In the current employment market, young dentists are struggling to find jobs and make the right connections. Specialists too are receiving fewer referrals and principal dentists are flooded with ambiguous CVs from across the world,” explains Amit Patel, who is also a London-based dentist. “Dental Circle is the professional network for dental professionals, with the aim of connecting all dentists, therapists, hygienists, nurses and laboratory technicians.”

Once approved, members are given a personal profile page, which they can customise with their interests and achievements, special interest groups to explore or deepen their knowledge of different aspects of dentistry. These are led by mentors, including clinical gurus such as Chris Orr and Zaki Kanaan.

“Young dentists are more ambitious than ever, looking to advance their careers through courses and investing in dental products and practices early on. Our goal was to create a website where they can find support from a variety of professional sources,” Patel said.

In addition to its online presence, which includes connection social media websites like Facebook, Dental Circle has recently begun organising roadshow events that give members and other professionals the opportunity to network with prominent experts, as well as to try out the latest technologies and tools. Three of these events, intended to cover clinical topics ranging from short-term orthodontics to posterior direct restorations, are scheduled for later this year in London, Leeds and Manchester.

“The Dental Circle Roadshow events are a new concept, aimed at young dentists, helping to build foundations, but also advance current techniques,” said Dev Patel.

Registrations for each of the one-day events, which are worth seven hours of continuing professional development, are still being accepted. Professionals interested in attending the workships and to register at denta circle.com/roadshow.

Capital prepares for International Orthodontic Congress

By DTI

LONDON, UK: The International Orthodontic Congress (IOC) is held once every five years and offers up to 10,000 orthodontists and allied professionals a unique platform to meet, network and exchange knowledge and ideas with their colleagues and peers from across the globe. The World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) and the British Orthodontic Society, the two largest dental specialist groups in the UK with over 1,800 members collectively, will be hosting the eighth edition of the congress in London, from 27 to 30 September.

The organiser expect to attract more than 7,000 people. About 4,000 participants have already signed up for the event. It will be officially opened on 27 September at the ExCel London Exhibition and Convention Centre in the heart of London’s Docklands, with easy access to central London. The venue is part of a 30-acre site which includes three on-site underground rail stations and easy access to the underground network and London City Airport.

In order to cater for both orthodontists and other dental health professionals such as dental technicians, hygienists, dental attendants and office staff, the WFO will be offering two scientific programmes that will run in parallel. In addition to these programmes, a World Village Day will take place, which will comprise of seven parallel, full-day programmes. To date, distinguished speakers have already confirmed their participation.

The congress lectures and presentations will be held in English, however, simultaneous translation will be provided for some sessions. Alongside the scientific programme, attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about new products and technological developments at the adjoining exhibition that will run for the duration of the congress.

In addition, during the course of the congress, several social events are planned for the evenings, including an international reception at the famous Madame Tussauds wax museum and a gala dinner at the Old Billingsgate, an extraordinary and unique venue that is situated in a prime position on the River Thames which was once the world’s largest fish market. Tickets for these events can be purchased upon registration.

According to the WFO, one of the reasons the congress is taking place in London is because of the city’s heritage and its attractions on offer. As a city of history and culture, delegates will have numerous opportunities to enjoy many of the sights, including castles and palaces, historical buildings and monuments, theatres and opera houses and other well-known places that were described by famous authors, such as William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

Online registration for the event is open until 17 September online but delegates can also register on-site at the registration desk on 27 September.