In a dental office in Düsseldorf, a patient died after a tragic fall. The 45-year-old woman, who had been treated under anaesthesia owing to a mental disability, woke up dizzy in the recovery room and accidently slammed her head against an aquarium. Still under the influence of the aesthetic, the patient apparently stumbled and hit her head against the aquarium with such a tremendous force that it burst. A shard of glass severed the woman’s carotid artery and she subsequently bled to death within a short period. The police, who began their investigation straight away, have declared the case “a tragic accident.” Practice staff was given counseling by emergency chaplains.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi has said that it has tested a new and simpler system that could help to identify dental fluorosis in the population. The tool is based on photographic information from patients with the conditions gathered from several districts in India, and can be used by health workers without prior knowledge in dentistry.

First tests conducted with the new system by an ICMR Task Force among schoolchildren in the South Delhi and Hisar districts turned out successful, with little difference found in regard to detection rates of dental specialists and field workers unfamiliar with fluorosis, the Council said. With this tool, the organisation hopes not only to help health workers nationwide to detect the condition in its early stages but also to gather reliable national data on the prevalence of fluorosis, which is considered to be a major public health problem owing to the excessive intake of fluoride through drinking water in most parts of India.

Although representative data in the country is lacking, results from different studies suggest a high prevalence in areas with high water fluoridation. If the condition is not detected, it can lead to skeletal fluorosis, a disease that causes bone to lose its flexibility through the accumulation of osseous tissue. It has also been associated with renal failure, atherosclerosis and other health problems.
A number of mutual recognition arrangements concerning various industries have been signed between ASEAN member states in recent years with the goal of stimulating and regulating the migration of highly skilled professionals like dentists. A new report released by both the International Labour Organization and the Asian Development Bank in Jakarta indicates that, despite the improved framework, labour mobility in these industries has not progressed much. The main obstacles to the implementation of the arrangements remain different systems of education and professional recognition, the report states. It also suggests that some countries still favour filling certain positions with native labour rather than professionals from abroad. Language, culture and social acceptance appear to be further barriers to foreigners seeking to occupy high-skill posts in another country.

Multinational mutual recognition arrangements between ASEAN members exist for a number of occupations, including engineers, architects, accountants and nurses. An agreement regulating the migration and foreign employment of dentists was signed by ten ASEAN member states in 2009. According to the report, highly skilled workers are estimated to constitute only one per cent of the workforce in the entire ASEAN region. Combined with the lack of mobility, it predicts that they will not be able to satisfy demand, which is expected to grow by 41 per cent, or 14 million additional jobs, owing to the introduction of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

Intended to establish a single regional market and to foster economic development, the AEC is anticipated to be fully established by the end of 2015.