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Study confirms Asians are at greater risk of periodontal disease

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., USA: Ethnicity has long been thought to play a role in the susceptibility of patients to gingival recession. A new study from the US has now offered new evidence for the clinical assumption that Asians are more prone to attachment loss owing to their unique dental and gingival morphology.

In a clinical evaluation measuring the length of teeth and roots from dental radiographs, students and clinicians from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) found a high incidence of shorter root lengths and forms in Asian populations, which they suggest represents a larger risk of attachment loss. In addition, a high percentage of the patients exhibited a thin gingival biotype with a gingival width of between only 3 and 5 mm.

Overall, 49 patients from Japan, China, South Korea and Vietnam were observed with no significant pattern deviation between the various ethnic Asian groups.



People of Asian ethnicity like this woman could be more prone to attachment loss. (DTI/Photo Gang Liu)

According to the researchers, the recent findings are in line with data reported by Stanley Nelson and Major Ash in 2010, who found similar tooth-root ratios to those in the UCSF study. Combined with a thin gingival biotype, patients with such a short root morphology might be at greater risk of peri-

odontal destruction and developing periodontal disease, they stated. They said that dental practitioners should consider these factors when monitoring and treating periodontal disease in Asian patients. In particular, "a clinician's standard accepted level of attachment loss for various stages of peri-

odontal disease may need to be adjusted for the shorter root length," they advise in the report.

A higher incidence of periodontal problems in Asian populations has previously been linked to factors like poor oral hygiene and inadequate access to oral health care. [DTI](#)

Major welfare fraud exposed

City police in New Zealand's largest city Auckland have recently uncovered a major welfare scam involving a bogus dental clinic. Two suspects running the facility in the Papatooe suburb were arrested for having claimed benefits worth NZ\$350,000 (US\$299,000) for emergency treatment that was never administered from the Ministry of Social Development since 2011.

The latest arrest is considered a major success of the ministry's recently launched Welfare Fraud Collaborative Action Programme, a nationwide partnership between different agencies to combat welfare fraud. Among other goals, the initiative aims to enhance the sharing of information between all agencies involved in providing welfare in order to detect irregularities sooner.

According to ministry figures, false benefits worth more than NZ\$40 million (US\$34.4 million) were claimed by individuals in New Zealand last year. [DTI](#)



Stanley Bergman, Henry Schein, Dr Chad Gehani, Indian Dental Association, and Steven W. Kess, Henry Schein (from left to right), opening the NASDAQ Stock Market on 20 March, 2013, in celebration of FDI's "World Oral Health Day". (DTI/Photo Henry Schein)

Kuraray Noritake expands production

The Japanese dental market leader Kuraray Noritake has announced a third production site. The new plant in Tainai City in the Niigata Prefecture was recently put into operation in the presence of company president Sadaaki Matsuyama and executive officer Osamu Yamada.

According to official statements, the Niigata plant is intended to replace the existing Noritake production facility in Kurashiki, which will see a significant cut-back in the upcoming months. With a projected production volume of 1.1 million units per year, the facility in Niigata is hoped to become Kuraray Noritake's largest production site in Japan, the company said. [DTI](#)



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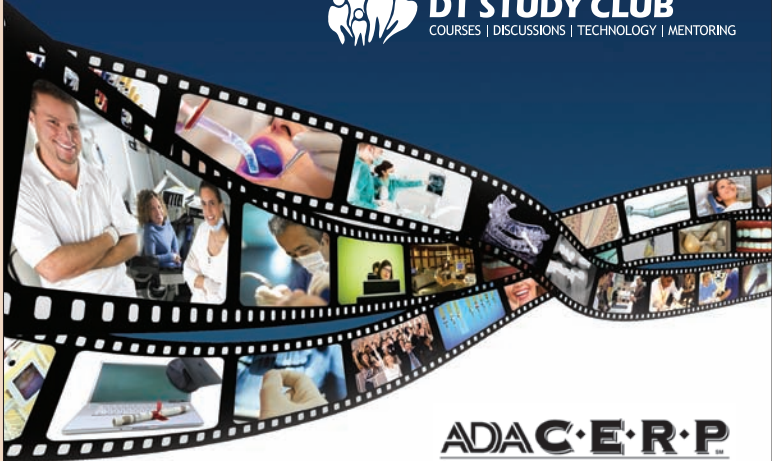
Bacteria harbour on bib clips

US researchers have reported that a significant proportion of dental bib clips harboured bacteria from the patient, dental clinician and the environment even after the clips had undergone standard disinfection procedures. Forty per cent of the clips tested retained one or more aerobic bacteria. [DTI](#)

Low tax compliance among dentists

The Filipino government has reached out to the Philippine Dental Association and other organisations to urge their members to return their files before the 2012 tax return deadline. Tax returns from non-paying self-employed professionals are currently estimated at P360 billion (US\$8.7 billion). [DTI](#)

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More than 700 gather for endo meeting

Asian Pacific Endodontic Confederation hosted professionals at Seoul congress

DT Asia Pacific

SEOUL, South Korea: Endodontics in the Asia Pacific region is expected to have taken another significant step up with the 2013 scientific congress of the Asian Pacific Endodontic Confederation (APEC), which was held recently in the capital of South Korea. Organised in collaboration with the Korean Academy of Endodontics, the biannual meeting was the organisation's third scientific congress in the Northern Asian country.

Overall, up to 750 dental professionals attended the three-day event, of which every fourth attendee came from abroad. Hands-on workshops on the use of NiTi files and microscopes were well attended, according to the organisers, and topics related to working length determination, biomechanical canal preparation, and pulp regeneration enjoyed widespread attention. Presentations about the latest developments and treatment concepts were given by Dr James L. Gutmann, USA, Prof. Gianluca Gambarini and Drs Politino/Glande, all Italy, as well as other internationally renowned speakers in the field of endodontics.

"Most of these techniques are already available and used in clinical practice throughout the Asia Pacific region," commented APEC's president Prof. Luke Sung



The organising committee posing with members of this year's faculty. (DTI/Photo Denfoline, South Korea)

Kyo Kim, who is also Chairman of the Department of Conservative Dentistry at the Kyungpook National University's School of Dentistry in Daegu.

"Therefore, endodontists practising in the most developed markets have all the state-of-the-art equipment, including MTA-like materials, NiTi rotary instruments, operating microscopes, heat-controlled gutta-percha filling devices and electronic apex locators, at their disposal. Specialists in Korea in particular are very much up to date with the latest developments in the field and therefore scholars and students from all over the world come here

to learn about or share information and research."

Since APEC was founded in 1985, 15 national endodontic societies have become members of the confederation, including professional bodies in Australia, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and the Philippines. Iran, Jordan and the US are current members from outside the region. APEC's scientific congress takes place every two years, with smaller meetings or events held at larger international endodontic congresses in the intervening period. According to Kim, the next general meeting will take place in Jordan in early 2015. [DTI](#)

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South Korean receives ITI research award

Dr Jung-Chul Park honoured for study on stromal cells

CHICAGO, USA: For his research on the acquisition of stromal cells through minimally irrigated implant osteotomy, South Korea has received the 18th André Schroeder Research Prize awarded by the International Team for Implantology (ITI) in Switzerland. The periodontist from Seoul, who is currently in London at the UCL Eastman Dental Institute on an ITI scholarship, received the prestigious award together with a cash endowment of CHF20,000 (US\$21,400) at the organisation's North American congress in Chicago earlier this month.

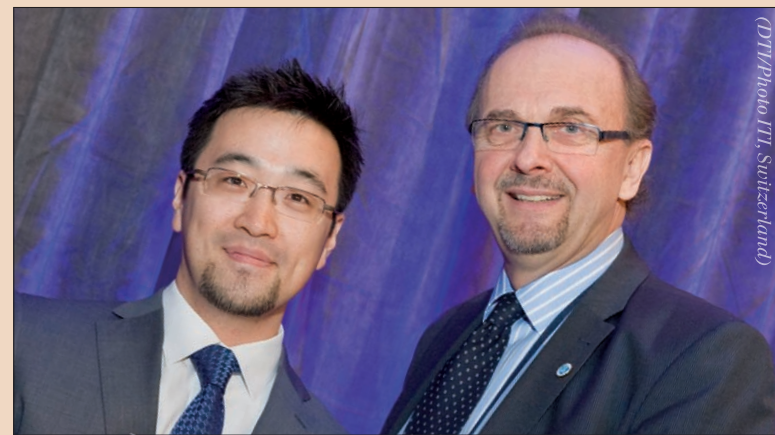
In the study, published in the May 2012 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, Park and his team from the Yonsei University's College of Dentistry investigated the potential of bone chips derived from implant osteotomy procedures as a cell source for tissue engineering, such as dentoalveolar bone-tissue reconstruction. They found that the procedure yields a substantial amount of bone trapped within drill flutes that could be used for harvesting those cells, which according to Park are regarded as the future of medical and dental treatment.

"We all know that this area still needs a great deal of research before we can actually utilise the stem cells obtained from the patient; however, it is very important to know that these cells are relatively easy to access," he commented. "Now we will have to see what clinicians and researchers do with this. I expect very interesting ideas to follow our study."

Park is only the third researcher from Asia to have received this award after Chinese researchers Xiaolong Zhu in 2005 and Yuelian Liu in 2003. ITI has awarded the prize dedicated to its founder and Swiss dental implant pioneer

Prof. André Schroeder annually since 1992. Last year saw German researcher Cornelius von Wilmowsky come out tops with his research on the effect of diabetes mellitus on peri-implant bone formation.

According to its figures, the international dental implantology organisation, which is based in Basel, Switzerland, currently boasts more than 15,000 members from around the world. [DTI](#)



Dr Jung-Chul Park (left) with ITI president Prof. Daniel Buser.

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Editorial note

The following information is additional to that contained in an article about the acquisition of Exopro by Zimmer Dental in *DT Asia Pacific* 3/2013, page 6. The article states that the pilot programme, entailing initial commercial activities, started in mid-2007 and product development began after that year (with the launch of the final product line in July 2011). Prof. Per-Ingvar Brånemark actually became directly involved in Exopro's new product line, P-I, by coordinating development activities and devising concepts for the system in 2005 already.

Dear reader,



Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

If the recent International Dental Show in Cologne has shown us one thing than that the dental industry is doing surprisingly well and that dentists, at least in Europe, are still willing to invest largely into new equipment.

What it also demonstrated was that digitalisation in dentistry has developed further and found its way into other fields beyond dental CAD/CAM. While this, let's call it evolution, promises much easier diagnosis and treatment, it will also require dentists to constantly gain more education and to acquire new skills.

Unfortunately, it also holds the danger of dentists becoming too dependent on technology and put parts of their expertise into corporate hands. There is an increasing number of high-end systems being launched onto the market that clinicians probably never be able to use and understand thoroughly. Who is to blame when a diagnosis fails?

Technology is a good thing but its benefits should not hide the fact that the profession still requires skill and critical thinking. These cannot be replaced by a push of a button. ■

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Zimmermann
Group Editor
Dental Tribune International

“Let's take a look at your gums”



Crisis in endodontics



Prof. Beena Rani Goel
India

There has been an alarming increase in the number of retreatments of endodontically treated cases recently—I have even heard

“A science-based treatment protocol is replaced by corporate-dictated norms...”

an endodontist proudly proclaiming that he performs many retreatments for failed root-canal cases. Having practised endodontics for more than three decades, I know that if the basic principles of endodontic treatment are adhered to, the majority of root-canal-treated cases can remain asymptomatic for many years.

There are two aspects to the crisis we are facing. First, working width has become a totally forgotten dimension. In the past, we only

had stainless-steel hand instruments with which to work and attempts were made to enlarge the canals to at least a size 35 or 40. The current trend is to stop instrumentation at a size 20 or 25 tip with tapered rotary NiTi instruments and perform a single-cone obturation. A science-based treatment protocol is replaced by corporate-dictated norms that go against all

the principles of surgical treatment, which prescribes the removal of all infected dentine from the root-canal walls, particularly in the apical third. It is non-ethical not to address the biologic width because there are now instruments that can help us do it. I was shocked to hear a University of Pennsylvania staff member recently advocating size 35 for all canals.

The second aspect is that the number of years for which an endodontically treated tooth remains

functional in the oral cavity is seriously decreasing. This is due to the stripping of critical healthy cervical dentine owing to the use of instruments with larger tapers. An increasing number of patients are therefore returning to their dentist with horizontal fracture of the root-canal-treated and crowned teeth at the cervical area.

For how long can we remain complacent about this deteriorating situation? It is time that the

conscientious stalwarts of the profession set things right and lead less-experienced dentists back to the correct path. ■

Contact Info

Prof. Beena Rani Goel is the President of the International Academy for Rotary Endodontics and a well-known endodontist from India. She can be contacted at profgoel@gmail.com.

To the Editor

Re: “Study suggests dentists cause implant failure”
(Dental Tribune Asia Pacific Vol. 10, No. 11, page 7)

The Journal of Oral Implantology article, a retrospective study conducted at the Center for Implant Dentistry, Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, Loma Linda, Calif., assessed the success rates of 50 full-arch maxillary and/or mandibular immediate loaded implant-supported fixed complete dentures, after a mean follow-up time of 42.1 months.

The implant failure rate for two surgeons involved in the study (with > 5 years of surgical experience) was 2.4 per cent (two of 85 implants), whereas the remaining 18 surgeons (those with < 5 years of surgical experience) incurred an implant failure rate of 12.2 per cent. This particular observation can be explained by the fact that the 18 less experienced surgeons were graduate students with minimal implant surgical experience.

Dentists generally do not cause implant failure. But implants placed in immediate loading protocols for completely edentulous patients by inexperienced dentists experience higher failure rates. ■

Prof. Jaime Lozada,
11 November 2012

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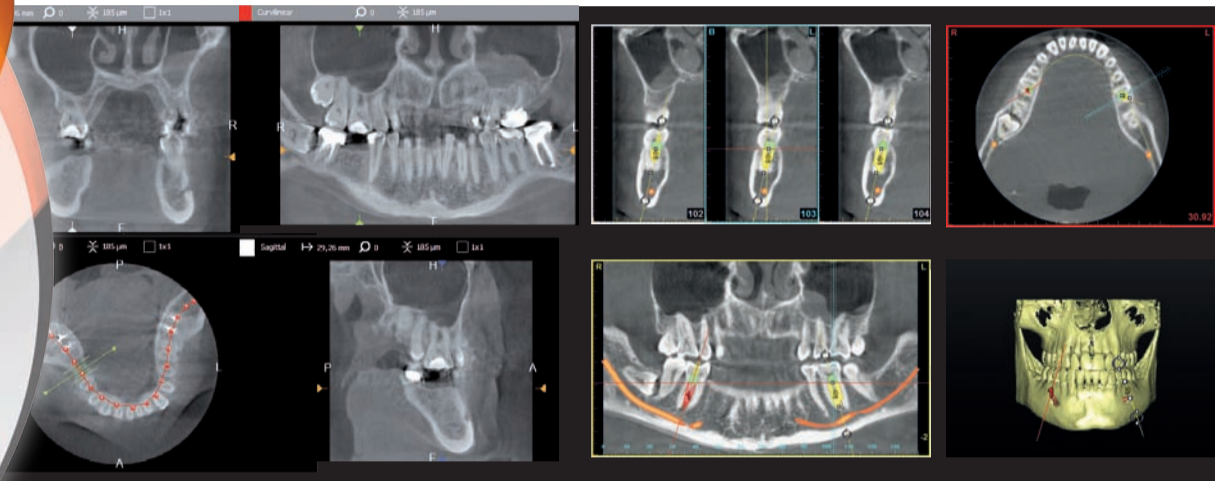
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New platform for better oral health in Europe

DTI

BRUSSELS, Belgium: The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe has put forth targets for improved oral health and the launch of a Europe-wide consultation on priorities for achieving better oral health by 2020. At a recent roundtable discussion during a meeting of the European Parliament, the targets were presented to EU policymakers and to a representative

panel of public health stakeholders and professional associations.

The platform was established in response to the call to action submitted by members of the European Parliament to the then European health commissioner John Dalli in 2010. It promotes a common European approach towards education, prevention and access to better oral health care in the continent.

Part of a European-wide call for input, the proposed targets focus on three key priorities: data-collection systems, preventive policies, and education and awareness. According to the platform, the targets will serve as a basis for benchmarking EU member states' progress towards increased prevention of oral diseases and improved oral health in Europe by 2020. In addition, the targets are expected to inform the joint action on chronic diseases,

which will be launched in 2015 by the European Commission and EU member states. Platform members will actively coordinate with European institutions to ensure the collection, validation and dissemination of good practices to address common risk factors, prevent oral diseases, promote oral health and facilitate data collection.

The targets build on the platform's "State of Oral Health in

Europe" report published in September 2012 (reported by *Dental Tribune*), which indicated that despite significant achievements in the prevention of caries in Europe, much remains to be done, particularly in key areas, such as promoting oral health awareness, tackling oral health inequalities and addressing common risk factors. The report reinforced the need for measurable targets and high-quality oral health data in order to better assess the impact of prevention initiatives, and to guide oral health policies and strategies at all levels of government.

Agreed-upon targets will be announced in 2014

The consultation, which runs until December 2013, will seek to involve public health stakeholders and professional associations across EU member states in helping to further refine and focus the proposed targets. Following the conclusion of the consultation, the agreed-upon targets will be announced on World Oral Health Day 2014, along with key benchmarks and scorecards against which to better measure the state of oral health in all EU member states.

Presenting the 2020 targets, Prof. Kenneth Eaton, chair of the platform, said: "The burden of oral health disease continues to challenge Europe, particularly Southern and Eastern European countries where significant disparities already exist and where access to affordable treatment grows more and more difficult. Meaningful actions to increase disease prevention and improve the state of oral health across Europe are needed now. We are calling on stakeholders across Europe to help us make our proposed 2020 targets a reality, and to ensure that more Europeans take advantage of the simple, effective tools that can help them improve their oral health today."

Untapped policy areas expected to be scrutinised as part of the consultation process include the need to improve care for the elderly, earlier diagnosis of oral cancer, integration of oral hygiene education in school programmes, and strengthened public awareness campaigns that make European citizens more aware of daily oral hygiene practices, including proper brushing and the use of fluoride-containing toothpaste, interdental cleaning, taking care of teeth when away from home with the use of sugar-free chewing gum and regular dental check-ups.

Oral health-related costs still on the rise

Less than a year ago, the "State of Oral Health in Europe" report, commissioned by the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe, revealed that oral health-related costs are still on the rise even though caries and its complications are highly preventable through a healthy, balanced diet and routine oral hygiene practices. The report estimated spending on dental treatment in the EU 27 to be close to €79 billion in 2012, a figure set to reach €95 billion by 2020 if adequate action is not taken immediately. The consultation is open to all interested individuals and organisations: www.oralhealthplatform.eu

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Market in Europe increases with more sales achieved online

Claudia Jahn
OEMUS MEDIA AG

COLOGNE, Germany: Overall sales of dental equipment in Europe increased last year, accord-

ing to a market study presented by the Association of European Dental Dealers (ADDE) and Federation of the European Dental Industry (FIDE) at IDS in Cologne. Sales of consumables remained at the same level in 2012, it also found. In contrast to the steadily declining number of direct sales,

email and web sales increased continuously in nearly all the countries examined. Among these, Denmark was ahead of France and Great Britain as the fastest growing dental market in Europe.

With respect to 2012, it was found that despite a slight increase

in the number of practicing dentists in Europe, the number of dental technicians has not grown. The number of dental practices and labs has actually decreased, signaling a nearly uniform trend toward consolidation across the continent.

While the number of graduates in dental medicine in Europe declined significantly in comparison to 2011, the same was considerably higher in the US. Nevertheless, the ratio of practicing dentists to patients remained unchanged.

FIDE and ADDE have been collaborating since 1998 and together publish an annual market study of the European dental industry. Along with figures on customers and end-consumers, the report also covers sales values for the main product categories such as dental equipment, consumables, implants and CAD/CAM, as well as data on distribution channels, information about current European VAT rates and their influence on the dental market. [DTI](#)

(Edited by Daniel Zimmermann, DTI)

IDS 2013 surpasses expectations

DTI

COLOGNE, Germany: According to the latest statistics, an estimated 125,000 visitors from 149 countries and 2,058 exhibitors from 56 countries attended the world's largest dental show in Germany in March. The organisers noted growth in the number of international participants in particular. About 68 per cent of exhibitors and 48 per cent of visitors came from outside Germany. Overall, they reported a 6 per cent increase compared with the event two years ago.

"Owing to the high internationality of the event and the distinct discretionary buying power of the visitors, we expect positive effects for the current business year and sustainable development on the national and international dental markets," said Dr Martin Rickert, Chairman of the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (VDDI).

Despite the apparent return of winter last week, the show was very well attended from the first day onwards by dental professionals, dental technicians, and representatives of the dental industry and academics. In particular, exhibitors noted an increase in the number of visitors from emerging dental markets, such as China, Russia and Brazil. In addition, more people from Japan, Turkey and Ukraine attended the show than before.

The organisers observed that visitors and exhibitors showed particular interest in CAD/CAM systems and digital workflow technologies. Innovations in prophylaxis and implantology attracted great interest too.

According to an IDS survey, 74 per cent of the participants were satisfied or very satisfied with the event. Owing to the comprehensive range of products and the numerous product innovations, almost 80 per cent rated the exhibition as good or very good. Overall, about 95 per cent of the visitors said that they would recommend the event to their business partners.

The next IDS will be held from 10 to 14 March 2015. [DTI](#)



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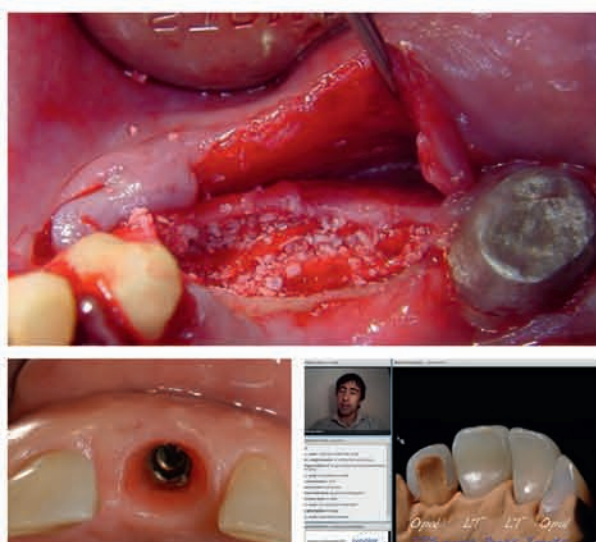


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KaVo challenges market with lines of ESTETICA E30 treatment units

DT Asia Pacific

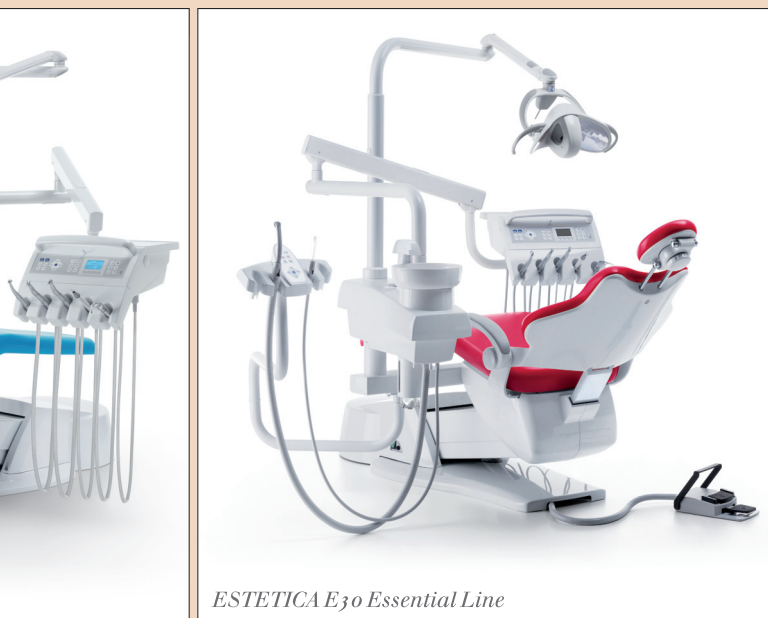
SINGAPORE: With its two lines of ESTETICA E30 treatment units, the German dental equipment manufacturer KaVo is offering the company's proven quality, reliability and efficacy at an entry-level price. From March 2013, units in the Essential Line can be equipped with the integrated PIEZOsoft ultrasonic scaler, which, according to the company, boasts intelligent technology for optimal treatment results. The line is complemented by the EDI halogen lamp and the new MAIA LED lamp.

Dentists can also benefit from the future-proof ESTETICA E30 Evolution Line, which comes with the light and optimally balanced INTRA LUX KL 703 motor featuring an optional endo function for fatigue-free work.



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trasonic scaler achieves higher removal rates for a wide range of indications, KaVo said. The KaVo LUX 540 LED delivers up

to 40,000 lux for an ideal field of illumination that is homogenous and has accurate edges, as well as reduced shadows.

According to KaVo, the dentist element of the ESTETICA E30 can be individually configured with five cartridges. All functions of the chair and the instrument can be controlled intuitively through direct buttons and the KaVo colour scheme. ESTETICA E30's soft cushion and the double-jointed headrest are intended to provide greater comfort for the patient, while the adjustable height of the patient chair (between 350 and 830 mm) allows clinicians to work in a relaxed posture in any treatment position.

In addition, the chair's removable components and easy-to-clean surfaces provide for much better hygiene. Continuous disinfection and manual intensive disinfection functions provide permanent germ reduction, the company said. **DTI**

Special show at Sino-Dental

German industry announces research station for Beijing

DTI

BEIJING, China: In addition to supplier presentations, the German dental industry will be staging a special show at this year's Sino-Dental exhibition and scientific conference. The organisers said that the latest innovations and research results in dental medicine and technology in Germany will be presented at the German pavilion, which will be transformed into a research station for the show.

In order to give visitors an insight into this unique partnership, the organisers will be setting up a research station with dental surgery and laboratory areas. Guided tours will explain the individual production stages, covering such topics as conservative dentistry, prosthodontics and CAD/CAM laboratory work. The tours will be given by representatives of the respective dental manufacturers. In addition, the front of the pavilion will provide a glimpse into the station using a wide variety of media.

The organisers also announced that German Dental Day will be celebrated on 10 June. The event will feature a symposium for specialists held by German dental scientists. Prof. Stefan Schultze-Mosgau, director of the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery/plastic surgery at the University Hospital in Cologne, will be lecturing on possible future solutions in dentistry.

The show is being organised in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, the Association of German Trade Fair Industry and the Association of German Dental Manufacturers. **DTI**

According to Koelnmesse, the organiser of the show, 69 exhibitors will be showcasing their product innovations at the German pavilion in Beijing from 9 to 12 June during Sino-Dental. In total, the pavilion will occupy an area of 1,600 m². Seventeen of the products to be presented are the result of close collaboration between German scientific institutions and research laboratories and the German dental industry, the organisers said.



Dr Markus Heibach (left), VDDI Executive Director, and Vice-Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Health Chen Xiaohong (middle) in talks with exhibitors at last year's Sino-Dental.

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