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IDS REVIEW

This year's edition of the International Dental Show in Cologne was one of the largest events to date. Find a selection of related news in the review section.

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ACUPUNCTURE

Dr Wong Li Beng about the increasing importance of acupuncture therapy and its wide range of applications in contemporary dental practice.

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IMPLANT TRIBUNE

Read the latest news about implant products, such as Yomi, the first robot-assisted surgical device for implant procedures, in our specialty section.

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Staining susceptibility tested

By DTI

BANGKOK, Thailand/TOKYO, Japan: With the development of new materials and technology in dentistry, expectations for durable and aesthetically pleasing restorations are ever increasing. In a recent study, researchers from Thailand and Japan investigated how sensitive various restorative materials were to discoloration from coffee.

Just like natural teeth, restorative materials are susceptible to discoloration from certain foods and beverages with high staining properties, including coffee, tea and red wine. In order to avoid discoloration over time, surface quality is thus essential for the success of restorative treatments.

New CAD/CAM composite resin blocks are industrially polymerised under standardised parameters at high temperature and pressure to achieve optimum properties at the microstructural level and a high degree of conversion. As a result, material charac-



Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages; however, it is known for its tooth staining properties. A study has now tested how various CAD/CAM materials reacted to immersion in coffee.

teristics have improved compared with direct restorative composite resin.

In the study, researchers from the Tokyo Medical and Dental University in Japan and the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok aimed to evaluate how modern composite resin block materials

developed for CAD/CAM systems react to coffee exposure compared with conventional resin materials.

The researchers measured the change in colour in eight CAD/CAM blocks, including five composite resin blocks (Block HC, SHOFU; CERASMART, GC; GRADIA Block, GC; KZR-CAD Hybrid Resin

Block, Yamamoto Precious Metal; Lava Ultimate, 3M ESPE), one hybrid ceramic block (VITA ENAMIC, VITA Zahnfabrik), one PMMA block (Telio CAD, Ivoclar Vivadent) and one feldspathic ceramic block (VITABLOCS Mark II, VITA Zahnfabrik), and four conventional composite resins.

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Detecting bacteria

LONDON, UK: A new method of detecting bacteria during root canal therapy could eradicate the need for follow-up appointments and prevent treatment failure, according to a new study. The SafeRoot device, created by a team of researchers at King's College London Dental Institute, enables rapid bacterial detection inside the root canal through fluorescent staining and microspectroscopy, ensuring the procedure has been successful and reducing the need for tooth extraction or surgical intervention. During trials, the research team was able to successfully detect bacterial cells after just 3 minutes of testing.

"SafeRoot will reduce the time for root canal completion and will increase the success rate of treatments by letting the dentist know when it's safe to proceed with filling the tooth," said Professor of Biomaterials and Restorative Dentistry Tim Watson from the Dental Institute.



The Structo OrthoForm presented at the 2017 International Dental Show. The device is the first dentistry-specific 3-D printer tailored for orthodontic applications. ► BUSINESS Page 4

Higher tooth loss risk

Elderly Japanese residents who were forced out of their homes by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster may be at greater risk of tooth loss, a survey by Tohoku University has found. Factors negatively affecting dental health were stress, financial problems, dietary changes and a lack of opportunities to brush teeth, it found.

Dental care in MS patients

Researchers from Queensland have found that most multiple sclerosis patients perceived dental care in Australia as inflexible and not tailored to individual experiences of the disease. Among other problems, patients reported experiencing difficulties accessing dental care, including transport and financial barriers.

Artificial enamel

Aiming to create a material that is able to withstand repeated stresses, such as unavoidable vibrations like those on airplanes, which cause objects with rigid structures to age and crack, researchers at the University of Michigan in the US have mimicked the structure of tooth enamel. They replicated the material by sequential growth of zinc oxide nanowire carpets, followed by layer-by-layer deposition of a polymeric matrix around these. Using computer modelling, the researchers confirmed that the structure of the synthetic enamel acted like natural enamel, diffusing the forces from vibrations through the interaction between the nanowires and polymer. Despite these positive results, automation of the production of the material will be challenging, they said.



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Survey: Misconceptions about oral health practices revealed



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The majority of respondents surveyed incorrectly believed that rinsing one's mouth with water after brushing is important.

By DTI

GENEVA, Switzerland: The results of an online survey, carried out in 12 countries for World Oral Health Day (WOHD) among 12,849 adults, have indicated a significant gap between what people believe to be good dental hygiene habits versus what they actually do and what is recommended by oral health experts.

In eight of the countries surveyed, 50 per cent or more of the

cent, respectively). FDI recommends waiting at least 30 minutes after eating to brush one's teeth to avoid weakening tooth enamel.

"These survey results highlight an alarming discrepancy between knowledge and actual good oral health practices," said FDI President Dr Patrick Hescot. "We want everyone to take control of their oral health this World Oral Health Day and understand that by adopting good oral hygiene habits, avoiding risk factors and having a regu-

discomfort and disease. Good oral health matters and translates to a better quality of life."

The respondents in the majority of the countries surveyed incorrectly believed that rinsing one's mouth with water after brushing is important. This myth was found to be the greatest among the participants from Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, India and Canada (77, 75, 73, 67 and 67 per cent, respectively). It is actually recommended not to rinse with water straight after

Brazil and Poland (52, 49, 48 and 42 per cent, respectively) thought that drinking fruit juice rather than fizzy drinks was better for good oral health. Fruit juice, however, can also be high in sugar, which causes dental caries. FDI recommends keeping consumption of sugary beverages to a minimum as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Dr Edoardo Cavalle, WOHD Task Team Chair, stated: "Understanding good oral health practices and adopting them early in life will help to maintain optimal oral health into old age and ensure you live a long life free from physical pain and often emotional suffering caused by oral disease."

Other key findings on oral health practices included the following:

- Seventy-seven per cent of people surveyed agreed that visiting a dentist once per year is a good oral health practice, but only 52 per cent actually did so.
- Only 28 per cent of respondents identified drinking alcohol in moderation as important for good oral health.

The survey was carried out by YouGov on behalf of FDI. It was undertaken between 20 and 31 January 2017. The figures were weighted and are nationally representative of all adults aged 18 and older in Great Britain (2,090), the US (1,145), Australia (1,018), New Zealand (1,055), Japan (1,006) and Canada (1,002); nationally representative, based around areas, of all adults aged 18 and older in Brazil (1,000), Mexico (1,006), Poland (1,004) and South Africa (500); representative of all adults aged 18 and older living in urban areas in India (1,011) and Egypt (1,012).

WOHD is celebrated annually on 20 March. It was initiated in 2013 by FDI to raise worldwide awareness of the prevention and control of oral disease. WOHD is supported by global partners Henry Schein, Philips Sonicare and Unilever.

respondents said they thought it is important to brush one's teeth straight after every main meal. This incorrect oral health practice was worst in Brazil, Mexico, Egypt and Poland (84, 81, 62 and 60 per

lar dental check-up, they can help protect their mouths. A healthy mouth allows us to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow and convey a range of emotions with confidence and without pain,

brushing to allow maximum exposure to fluoride, which will optimise the preventative effects.

Nearly half of the respondents surveyed in India, South Africa,

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The latter included one hybrid composite (CLEARFIL AP-X, Kuraray), one micro-filled composite (Durafill VS, Kulzer) and two nano-hybrid composites (ESTELITE SIGMA QUICK, Tokuyama Dental; Filtek Supreme Ultra, 3M ESPE).

They created 10 mm discs from each of the restorative materials and then calculated the discs' initial colour measurements before placing them in an instant coffee solution, which was changed daily. Colour changes were meas-

ured after one day, one week and one month.

The results showed that the coffee solution significantly discoloured all of the discs over time; however, CAD/CAM materials were generally less affected than the conventional resin materials. After one month, the change in colour of the CAD/CAM composite resin blocks and restorative composites ranged from 1.6 to 3.7 and from 2.1 to 7.9, respectively. According to the researchers, only one material, Durafill VS, was not significantly more discoloured

after one month than after one day.

However, in testing whether the coffee stains were removable through polishing, the colour of all of the materials, except for the GRADIA block, was restored after polishing with prophylaxis paste for 20 seconds. Of the conventional composite resins, Durafill and Filtek Supreme Ultra still showed some noticeable discoloration after polishing.

The authors noted that, owing to the study's in vitro design, it is

unknown how external factors, including regular toothbrushing, might affect the long-term discoloration of the materials when used in patients. They further pointed out that one month of immersion might have exaggerated the results beyond what would be seen in vivo, as immersing materials in coffee for one week is the equivalent of about seven months of coffee drinking.

The study, titled "Discoloration of various CAD/CAM blocks after immersion in coffee", was published in the February issue of the *Restorative Dentistry and Endodontics* journal.

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Australian Child Dental Benefits Schedule remains unchanged

By DTI

CANBERRA, Australia: Amid fierce criticism from dental groups and the opposition, the Australian government has decided to retain the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) at its full rebate amount of A\$1,000. Initially, the government planned to terminate the scheme completely according to the 2016–17 budget released last May. In December, it then announced that the scheme was to be saved, but with a watered-down amount of A\$700 available per child—both propositions have now been abandoned.

The CDBS, which was introduced by the former Labor Party government and commenced in January 2014, allows low-income families to claim a rebate of up to A\$1,000 per child every two years for dental care. However, at about A\$312 on average, most families claimed less than a third of the full rebate in the past. “In light of this, the Government had previously set the cap at \$700 per child over a two-year period, which would still allow children to visit a dentist regularly,” Minister for Health Greg Hunt said previously in a statement.

However, after both Labor and the Greens indicated that they would veto the change in the Senate, Hunt announced the reinstatement of the full rebate just hours before the motions were to be voted on in February. According to Hunt, the decision followed consultation with the Australian Dental Association.

Commenting on the move, Australian Dental Association Vice President Dr Carmelo Bonanno said it was a common sense decision by the government. “The reduction of A\$700 meant that about 20 per cent of children were going to miss out if they were going to try and utilise the scheme fully,” Bonanno told ABC News.

Regarding the low amount claimed on average in the past, Bonanno reasoned this could be attributed to a lack of awareness of the scheme. “Improving people’s awareness of that means that there’ll be better utilisation of the scheme and the outcomes are going to be far better,” he said, adding that the dental association had already discussed the need for better marketing of the scheme with the government.

Estimating general dental care costs, the Australian Health-

care and Hospitals Association calculated that children with the top 10 per cent highest need would be likely to require up to A\$2,050 worth of dental work

over two years and children at moderate risk would need up to A\$1,123 worth of work. Keeping the scheme at A\$1,000 would therefore help parents to con-

tinue to provide much-needed dental health care for their children, rather than delay treatment because of a lack of money, the association stated.



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“The market is going through a stage of consolidation”

An interview with Huub van Esbroeck, co-founder of 3-D printing solutions provider Structo



Huub van Esbroeck

By Kristin Hübner, DTI

Singapore-based dental solutions provider Structo has the mission of empowering businesses with its application-specific digital solutions. Just recently, it helped one of Singapore's leading dental consortiums, FDC, a service provider with 21 clinics in the city-state, to launch a new line of clear aligners that allow FDC to achieve cost savings of up to 50 per cent per patient. *Dental Tribune* had the opportunity to speak with one of the company's founders, Huub van Esbroeck, about the cooperation.

Dental Tribune: What exactly are AAA Aligners, and what are the benefits of the solution compared with competing products?

Huub van Esbroeck: AAA Aligners offer an affordable alternative to other clear aligner treatments. These savings are then passed to the end user, making clear aligner treatment more accessible to a

larger demographic, which will soon be expanded regionally.

Can you describe the role of Structo's technology in the development of AAA Aligners?

Dr Nurul Aizat, who is CEO and Group Clinical Director of FDC, approached Structo with a problem: the high costs of relying on an external manufacturer for its aligner cases. With the increasing volume of cases from all of its 21 clinics, FDC realised that it had the opportunity to start managing the process itself to reduce manufacturing costs.

Together, we embarked on this project, which resulted in Structo assisting FDC to set up its entire digital chain, including the purchase of an intra-oral scanner, treatment planning software, Structo's dental 3-D printer and thermoforming equipment, as well as staff training. The Structo OrthoForm's high throughput—30 models can be fabricated in 1.5 hours—translated to FDC only needing one printer for the entire manufacturing line of AAA Aligners.

How is the manufacturing process streamlined at the FDC clinics?

Instead of relying on an external aligner manufacturer or a dental laboratory, FDC now has a clear aligner manufacturing line in its own facility. By managing the manufacturing process itself, FDC can now eliminate the bottlenecks of working with external manufacturers, for example the



The Structo OrthoForm, the company's first dentistry-specific 3-D printer, was presented at this year's International Dental Show in Cologne in Germany.

lead time being determined by an external party, such as a laboratory that serves multiple customers other than FDC. By managing the process itself, FDC has halved the turnaround time from one month to only two weeks upon receiving a case, giving it an edge over its competitors.

Do you think this kind of collaboration can be applied in other areas of dentistry as well?

Collaborations such as these can be extended to any form of appliance manufacture. We have observed that the market is going through a stage of consolidation, and as a result, we are witnessing the emergence of more corporate

dental service groups such as FDC. These groups would have tremendously higher volumes compared with individual practices. When these volumes hit a critical mass, these groups should and will eventually start looking at insourcing their manufacturing process to better manage their costs through economies of scale.

Does Structo have plans to venture into other businesses or regions any time soon?

In 2016, we introduced our first dentistry-specific 3-D printer, the Structo OrthoForm, tailored for orthodontic applications. A few weeks ago, we introduced the Structo DentaForm, our second

dentistry-specific 3-D printer, tailored for restorative dentistry, for example precision models.

We believe the way forward for 3-D printing in dentistry is to develop solutions for specific applications. This unique approach to product development has given Structo tremendous success, with installation bases in four continents in just under a year. Currently, Structo serves various markets from our base in Singapore, but in the short to medium term, we are increasing our presence worldwide, with an initial focus on markets where we have a concentration of customers so that we can guarantee the best technical support.

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IDS 2017 SETS NEW RECORD

By DTI

COLOGNE, Germany: More than 155,000 people from 157 countries visited the International Dental Show (IDS) this year, according to the latest figures released by organiser Koelnmesse. This is an increase of 12 per cent compared with IDS 2015. Furthermore, the number of international attendees rose by almost 20 per cent to around 60 per cent.

This year's edition focused on digital production and diagnostics, intelligent networking solutions for practices and laboratories, smart services for dentists and dental technicians, as well as the further improvement of patient care and thus oral health worldwide.

Read about this year's show on the following IDS review pages.



Dentsply Sirona opens CEREC system



Dentsply Sirona CEO Jeffrey T. Slovin

By DTI

At this year's IDS, Dentsply Sirona was celebrating its first year as a combined company. "Who would have thought at the last IDS that Sirona and DENTSPLY would merge?" said Dr Jürgen Serafin, Vice President of Corporate Marketing, in greeting the audience at the celebratory press

event. Commenting on the companies' successful alliance in the past year, President and Chief Operating Officer Christopher T. Clark said that the partnership of both companies allows for an unrivalled combination of expertise in technology and solutions in the dental industry. "We truly believe we have the opportunity to shape the word of dentistry," he said.

Clark further announced that the company would continue to grow and sharpen its profile in the field of endodontics with the acquisition of RTD (Recherches Techniques Dentaires). The French owner-managed company is a leading supplier of composite pens and will complement Dentsply Sirona's endodontic and restorative portfolios.

"RTD's innovative offering completes our new R2C—The Root to Crown Solution," said Jeffrey T.

Slovin, CEO of Dentsply Sirona. "Thanks to R2C and RTD, we will be able to offer dentists an even more comprehensive end-to-end solution for better, safer and faster root canal treatments and dental restorations."

Another important announcement was the opening of the CEREC system. Practitioners will now be able to export data from the digital impression in STL format for use with other applications in the dental laboratory or clinical planning software. This will make the world's most used CAD/CAM system more flexible and therefore even more user-friendly for dentists.

According to the company, the STL format ensures compatibility with all common design programs used in laboratories. The corresponding software licence will be available with the new CEREC SW 4.5.

Ivoclar Digital launched

By DTI

Increasing digitalisation of the dental treatment workflow requires all the different components used in a process to be optimally coordinated. To meet this demand, Ivoclar Vivadent has extended its long-standing materials and processing expertise to the entire digital process chain with a comprehensive portfolio of CAD/CAM products for both dental laboratories and practices. The new range, under the brand Ivoclar Digital, was presented for the first time at IDS 2017.

For Ivoclar Digital, new products have been added to the company's range of aesthetic, state-of-the-art CAD/CAM materials for fixed, removable and implant-supported prosthetic restorations, including versatile ZirCAD blocks and a range of discs for the IPS e.max system. Dentists and labo-

ratories will be able to digitally produce dental restorations quickly and easily with four new PrograMill digital milling units that are suited for laboratories of all sizes. The range of high-end scanners from 3Shape has also been extended to include the new 3Shape E series, which, together with the Dental Designer software and exclusively developed Ivoclar Digital software add-ons, is aimed at increasing the reliability and efficiency of fully digitised processing procedures.

"We plan to enhance our customer-focused market strength significantly with the introduction of Ivoclar Digital. This is a unique new digital product portfolio based on our core competences in digital materials and processes," commented CEO Robert Ganley.

W&H previews new image campaign

By DTI

In addition to introducing the company's latest advancements in Cologne, W&H Managing Director Peter Malata previewed a new image campaign and shared his vision for the family-run company in light of the dental industry's recent trend towards mergers.

A new product highlighted by Malata and Roland Gruber, Head of Marketing and Sales for W&H Austria and W&H Germany, was the Primea Advanced Air System, the world's first air-operated high-speed dental drive solution that combines the advantages of a tur-

bine with the key strengths of an electric motor. "W&H has tamed the air," said Malata in introducing the system. Owing to its adjustable drilling speed, cavities can be opened easily, old fillings can be removed simply, and even crowns and bridges can be separated with ease, according to the company. The innovative drive solution can either be integrated as a built-in solution into new or existing units or be used as an add-on.

Apart from its new products, the company will be promoting a new image campaign, titled "Because you care", with a number of activities in 2017. Dentists take care of



W&H Managing Director Peter Malata and Roland Gruber, Head of Marketing and Sales for W&H Austria and W&H Germany, at the company's press event.

the well-being of their patients, and W&H seeks to support clinicians in their goal by providing reliable products and first-class service, explained Malata regarding the campaign.

In addition to the Austrian company's ongoing development

efforts, Malata highlighted the importance of establishing and fostering networks. According to him, it is most important to build synergies on various levels and with different partners in order to develop innovative products.

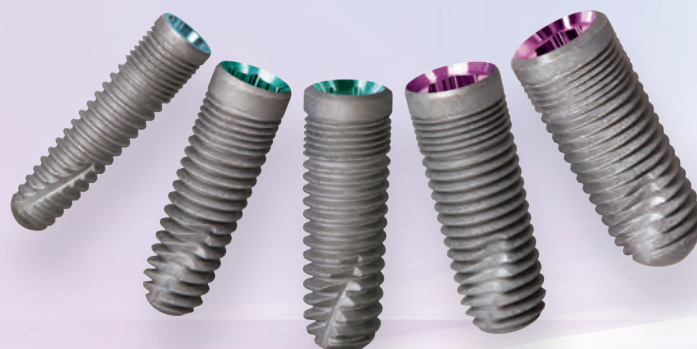
To this end, the company's long-standing managing director also made a statement on W&H's position regarding the international merger trend. Although merging could be considered both a threat and an option, W&H sees the company's strengths in maintaining a philosophy that is based on tradition and a close-knit community of partners and employees, he said. "There are different mindsets out there regarding consolidation versus family business and the benefits of both. However, in my opinion, in the future, it will be important to allow individual companies to pursue their own innovations while networking more closely with others."

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DTI Publishers' Meeting

"The opportunity to stay innovative"



Following on the success of last year's event in Dubai in the UAE, the next edition of ROOTS SUMMIT will take place in Berlin in Germany from 28 June to 1 July 2018.

By Julia Maciejek, DTI

COLOGNE, Germany: Ahead of the 37th International Dental Show, Dental Tribune International (DTI) held its 13th Annual Publishers' Meeting. This year, the meeting, which was attended by more than 75 licence partners from all over the world, including India, Iran, Israel, Italy and the Netherlands, discussed a number of new projects for the upcoming year and strategic approaches for future development. At the meeting, DTI CEO Torsten Oemus addressed new trends in the global dental industry, as well as the relevance of online education, e-commerce for dentistry and event marketing. In response to these needs, DTI is continuously updating and expanding its portfolio, gradually developing into a digital dental service platform, he said.

New prevention magazine

DTI is continuing to expand its print portfolio and introduced its latest addition during the meeting: prevention. The new international magazine will feature topics concerning oral health and be released during the Annual World Dental Congress of the FDI World Dental Federation in Madrid in Spain this year.

New website

In response to the growing need for digital dentistry technologies and the increasing importance of digital media, DTI is relaunching its website this year as part of its continuing portfolio expansion. For improved usability, the navigation and menu of the local websites will be in local languages. The fresh look will include a modernised, interactive layout, with a focus on company profiles. Furthermore, the website will use several new advertising and content formats. A revised calendar with upcoming webinars and global events, as well as a map, will

aid readers. In addition, an updated version of e-papers will be available for iPads.

DDS.WORLD

As a next step to further integrating e-commerce into its portfolio, DTI has continued to develop DDS.WORLD, a new digital marketplace. "A business is valued by the interaction with its clients and we need to continuously find new ways to engage with them. We need to adapt our business to the changing context," explained Oemus. DDS.WORLD, available at www.dds.world, is a full-service digital marketplace for products, news, e-learning and practice management. It is targeted at all participants in the dental industry. It offers product listing and an associated search facility, a practice management software program, direct customer communication tools and much more. The comprehensive website has the potential to be a game-changer in the provision of digital dental services to the industry. "The digital world is becoming increasingly important in this context," emphasised Oemus.

ROOTS SUMMIT

As part of its expansion, DTI is moving towards the events business and already organises the ROOTS SUMMIT, the discussion forum for endodontics. Following on the success of last year's event in Dubai in the UAE, with over 300 attendees, the next edition will take place in Berlin in Germany from 28 June to 1 July 2018. The ROOTS SUMMIT began as a dedicated Facebook group, growing from a membership of 1,000 in 2013 to more than 22,000 currently, including dental professionals from well over 100 countries.

The next Publishers' Meeting will take place at the Black Sea in 2018 and be hosted by Dental Tribune Bulgaria.

By DTI

After only two years of development, Japanese company NSK presented the world's first lightweight mobile dental treatment unit, among other new products, at IDS. At the show, President and Chief Operating Officer Eiichi Nakanishi spoke with *Dental Tribune* about the device and how his company has stayed ahead in developing innovative solutions for dentistry.

Dental Tribune: Mr Nakanishi, at IDS 2015, we spoke about sterilisers and premium handpieces. What is the focus of this year's presentation by NSK?

Eiichi Nakanishi: We are focusing on two specific categories of products, in the fields of hygiene and prophylaxis, including the Varios Combi Pro. The device combines a prophylaxis scaler with powder treatment and will allow clinicians to effectively treat peri-implantitis, which has become a major issue around the globe.

We are also very proud of the new VIVA ace, our portable treatment unit,

which is very lightweight and can perform all treatments. In Japan and in many other countries, including China, the population is increasingly ageing and many elderly people are not able to visit a dentist. Our device is aimed at addressing this issue by allowing people to be treated in their homes, for example. It is the first device of its kind in the world.

That is quite impressive. What has the feedback on the device been in your home country and here at IDS?

We only introduced the device in Japan last year, but it has already proved to be a great success. Within only a few months, we sold over 1,000 units. The response here in Cologne has also been extremely positive, and we are in talks with German dealers regarding the distribution of the device.

NSK has a unique position in the market, as it is still family-owned, in comparison with many other companies in the market that have grown through acquisitions or mergers in recent years. Where do you see the benefits in this?

It is true, many companies, like Dentsply Sirona, are becoming constantly larger and they can virtually offer everything. This is, of course, something we may need to compete with in the future. However, we still see many benefits in having a more focused portfolio. It gives us the opportunity to stay innovative and develop unique products like the VIVA ace.



Eiichi Nakanishi, President and Chief Operating Officer of NSK, Japan

3Shape: TRIOS 3 Wireless

By DTI

Gathering an impressive crowd at 3Shape's booth, Tais Clausen and Rune Fisker, 3Shape co-founder and Chief Technology Officer and Vice President for Product Strategy, respectively, at 3Shape, presented the company's brand-new digital solutions at IDS. In addition to the Danish manufacturer's new affordable E scanners and its X1 scanner,

which delivers CBCT, panoramic, cephalometric and facial scanning in one system, the new TRIOS 3 Wireless especially was enthusiastically received by the audience.

The wireless version of 3Shape's award-winning TRIOS intra-oral scanner connects via Wi-Fi to a laptop and the TRIOS cart and eliminates the need for a connecting cable between the in-

tra-oral scanner wand and computer. "This takes convenience to a new level," commented Clausen enthusiastically about the new product. In demonstrating the benefits of the cordless device, Clausen walked through the audience while scanning his own teeth and using the wand to navigate between scan pages on the monitor from a distance—attracting excited applause from the audience.



3Shape co-founder Tais Clausen demonstrating the new TRIOS 3 Wireless.

“The silent assistant for efficient relative isolation for nearly all indications”

Using the OptraGate lip and cheek retractor in daily dental practice

An interview with Dr Patrick Dipsche, Germany

When it comes to successful dental treatment, it is not only important to use solutions that facilitate the dentist's work; physical comfort of the patient is equally important. With OptraGate, dental manufacturer Ivoclar Vivadent has introduced a lip and cheek retractor that considerably facilitates isolation of the treatment area in a multitude of dental procedures while being gentle and comfortable to wear for the patient. In the following inter-

procedure, I automatically work faster. This generally has a favourable effect on my treatment results. Is this not the definition of efficiency? The output is the same at least, if not better, while the use of resources is optimised. In this context, my resource is time and my output is the treatment result. I would say that I save about 5 minutes per patient on average.

What do your patients tell you after they have been treated with it?

Well, no patient ever likes wearing a retractor. However,

Do you feel that your patients find it comfortable to wear OptraGate?

I definitely feel that they tolerate OptraGate better than rigid retractors, because it is made of soft material and flexibly adapts to movements. However, subjective perceptions of comfort have to be taken with a grain of salt. All patients prefer not to be restricted in their movements. Compared with the existing alternatives, however, OptraGate always elicits a positive reaction from my patients.

away somewhat abruptly with a mirror. Such occurrences are clearly reduced with OptraGate because the mouth stays wide open without active involvement of the muscles, allowing the patient to rest against OptraGate. As the tissue is retracted evenly throughout the treatment, spontaneous protective movements of the patient can be avoided.

Is it easy to place in the patient's mouth?

Yes, in most cases. At first, it takes a bit of time to get used to



Dr Patrick Dipsche

lated to specific anatomical characteristics and considered the exception.

Do you have any placement tricks?

The most important step is choosing the correct size. Surprisingly, an OptraGate that is too small appears to be more difficult to insert than one that is slightly too large. Once the two lateral tabs have been positioned, it is also important to ask the patient to slightly close his or her mouth to allow the soft tissue to relax. In this way, OptraGate can easily be slipped into the upper and lower vestibules. If the correct size has been chosen, it pops into the correct position almost by itself.

How do you select the appropriate size for the patient?

So far, this has been a matter of judgement because the manufacturer did not previously provide specific instructions in this respect. However, the new blue and pink variations include an orientation aid printed on the packaging to assist in choosing the correct size. In my opinion, this scale works really well. One simply estimates the distance between the corners of the mouth (taking the slight curve of the lip into account) and then selects the most suitable size with the help of the guide marks.

How would you describe OptraGate in one sentence?

Hmm...the silent assistant for efficient relative isolation for nearly all indications.

I really like the product. Particularly when I have no assistant on hand to help out, it is an exceptionally useful auxiliary for which there is no real alternative. Once one has got the hang of it, one would not want to do without it.

Thank you very much for the interview.

“I definitely feel that they [patients] tolerate OptraGate better than rigid retractors.”

view, German orthodontist Dr Patrick Dipsche speaks about the benefits of the product for both patients and practitioners.

In which treatment situations do you especially like using OptraGate?

Dr Patrick Dipsche: As an orthodontist, I particularly like using OptraGate for intra-oral scanning and indirect bonding of lingual brackets. My assistants like to use it in the provision of prophylactic care, as they often perform these tasks alone and appreciate the effective retraction of the lips and cheeks that this device offers.

In your opinion, what are the key advantages of the product?

Although it may not seem so at first, OptraGate can actually be positioned easily and quickly in the patient's mouth. This is something I greatly value. An auxiliary such as a lip and cheek retractor must be easy and quick to use in order to be integrated into regular treatment procedures.

How does OptraGate help you in your workflow?

I would say that the gentle and effective retraction of the lips and cheeks is the most helpful feature and this feature also makes it considerably easier to achieve relative isolation. I do not have to move the tissues out of the way with the mirror all the time and I can concentrate more intensely on the actual treatment.

Would you say that OptraGate allows you to work more efficiently?

Yes. As I can concentrate more intensely on the actual treatment



The oral device can be used for a wide range of applications, including intra-oral scanning, the placement of indirect restorations, orthodontic treatment and paediatric dentistry.

bruxism patients, who tend to suffer from muscular tension in the jaw, often tell me that OptraGate has made it easier for them to keep their mouths open. It allows them to rest against the device and relax their muscles. This eliminates the need for them to actively keep their mouths open. Some of these patients would not want to be treated without OptraGate. This is, of course, fantastic for us.

Are there fewer interfering movements of the lips and jaws when the OptraGate retractor is worn?

Yes, I feel that, on the whole, the treatment goes more smoothly. Usually, one has to constantly remind patients to keep their mouths open during treatment, as they tend to reduce their mouth opening after a while to relax their muscles. Additionally, sometimes a protective reaction is inadvertently elicited from the patient when the tissue is moved

the handling technique. However, one quickly gets the hang of it. After that, placement is easy and quick. I would say it takes me less than 1 minute, normally just a few seconds. With some practice, patients could even place it themselves.

Only in patients with a very flat gingivobuccal fold in the lower labial area, placement may sometimes be a tad less straightforward. Such cases, however, are re-