Dental Tribune

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ORAL DISEASES

While blaming patients, dentists are often failing to diagnose and treat other contributing causative factors.

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DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

How thermoplastic materials have become alternatives for use in the manufacture of non-metal telescopic dentures.

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PINK-WHITE AESTHETICS

The importance of good cooperation in a case that involved soft-tissue remodelling in the anterior region.

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Crowns superior to dental fillings

By DTI

DUNDEE, UK: The Cochrane Oral Health Group in Manchester has recently updated one of its reviews, finding any kind of preformed crown to be superior to fillings in the treatment of severely decayed primary molars and primary molars that have undergone pulp treatment. The results also suggest that out of all fitting methods, the Hall technique causes the least discomfort and problems for patients.

Named after its inventor, a Scottish dentist, the Hall technique uses a preformed metal crown that is fitted over the tooth with no local anaesthetic, carious tissue removal or tooth preparation. First introduced a decade ago, it was originally developed as a non-invasive treatment for decayed primary molars.

While the review found no evidence of the superiority of one crown type to another, the results showed that teeth restored with preformed crowns compared with fillings are less likely to develop problems or cause pain over time.

Photo showing a preformed metal crown fitted with the Hall technique. © Dr Iyad Hussein, UAE

"Crowns are recommended for restoring primary molars that have had a pulp treatment, are very decayed or are badly broken down. However, few dental practitioners use them in clinical practice," the researchers said in the report. With the review, the researchers originally sought to determine whether the clinical outcome of primary teeth restored with preformed crowns or with fillings was in any way related to the extent of their decay.

The review updates a previous version on the subject, originally published by the group in 2007.

Buying rumours

By DTI

As reported online on *Bloomberg Business*, a number of companies are currently considering bids to acquire MIS Implants Technologies, among them global manufacturer of dental products DENTSPLY International and dental implant giant Straumann. According to the media company, a buyer for MIS, one of the largest suppliers in the value implant segment, may be found in the first half of the year already.

US private equity firm TA Associates bought into MIS Implants in 2011 and is now looking for a potential buyer of its shares worth an estimated US$400 million, *Bloomberg* reported on its website. The parties interested in purchasing MIS Implants could not be identified owing to privacy protection. Representatives of DENTSPLY, Straumann and TA Associates declined to comment on the matter.

Dental laser market grows steadily

By DTI

CHARING, UK: In addition to oral surgery, dental lasers are used for a variety of applications, ranging from caries diagnosis to periodontitis treatment and teeth whitening. Owing to the increasing demand in this sector, among other influences, the worldwide market for the devices will grow by a compound annual growth rate of 5.2 per cent over the next five years and is expected to exceed US$200 million (£144 million) by 2020, a new report has predicted.

According to the report, this growth will primarily be driven by the Asia Pacific market as clinicians and patients in this region are increasingly becoming aware of the benefits of laser devices.

Other developments contributing to the growth of laser use, include the rise in the number of aesthetic procedures on the continent and the ageing population.

The report, which was conducted by market research provider Marketsandmarkets and published by ReportBuyer in Charing, Kent last week, analysed industry trends and the market shares of top players in the field, such as Biolase, Sirona and Ivoclar Vivadent.

It also provides insights into the markets for dental lasers across various regions, exploring new distribution channels, new client bases and different pricing policies.

"The report will enrich both established firms as well as new entrants/smaller firms to analyse the market, which in turn will help these firms achieve greater market share," the authors stated.

Owing to technical advancements and high adoption rates, North America is currently leading the worldwide market for dental laser technology, particularly soft tissue lasers.

Dental Tribune welcomes comments, suggestions and complaints at *newsroom@dental-tribune.com*. For quick access to our contact form, you may also scan the following QR code.

AD

Oral health and diabetes discussed at premier event in Singapore

The symposium was part of the SJ50 celebrations. © The Right Spin/Singapore

By DTI

SINGAPORE: Among developed nations, Singapore has the second-highest proportion of diabetics, according to a recent report by the International Diabetes Federation. As the condition continues to be a growing concern owing to the increasingly sedentary lifestyle and high-calorie diets of Singaporeans, the city-state was the ideal place for the Joslin–Sunstar Diabetes Education Initiative (JSDEI) to hold its first Diabetes, Oral Health and Nutrition symposium in Asia.

The one-day event took place last month at the Swissôtel "The Stamford". Attended by Singapore Chief Dental Officer Patrick Tseng and Japanese Ambassador Haruhisa Takeuchi as part of the SJ50 celebrations (a number of events to commemorate 50 years of diplomatic ties between Singapore and Japan), it provided the latest information on the two-way relationship between diabetes and oral health. Over 300 international leading medical and dental health care global experts, including Dr George King, Senior Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer and Director of Research at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston in the US, among others, presented the latest findings on the interrelationships, innovations and interactions between periodontitis and diabetes.

Future strategies on oral and systemic health, as well as how JSDEI's efforts at strengthening the ties between the medical and dental fields were also discussed.

According to the initiative, increasing evidence supports the existence of an association between periodontal disease and diabetes. The latest research has shown that not only are people with diabetes more susceptible to serious periodontal disease, but the condition may also have the potential to affect blood glucose control and contribute to the progression of diabetes.

Recognising that early and proper treatment of periodontal disease can have a profound effect on the control of diabetes and its complications, the Sunstar Foundation established the JSDEI in April 2008 with the Joslin Diabetes Center, the world's largest diabetes research and clinical care organisation dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of diabetes, affiliated with the Harvard Medical School, to engage in education and research to improve knowledge and practices in this field.

In addition to its symposium in Asia, it has organised an annual event under the same name in Europe.

Established almost 40 years ago, the Sunstar Foundation for Oral Health Promotion has achieved international recognition for the significant benefits to society gained through its efforts to improve oral care and promote dental health through various activities.

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Only half of New Zealand adults visit dentist

By DTI

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: The Ministry of Health has presented the latest findings from the New Zealand Health Survey. The report found that only 48 per cent of all adults with natural teeth visited a dental professional in the past 12 months. In addition, it shows that the majority of adults living in deprived areas only visit a dental professional for problems.

While there is a limited range of publicly funded oral health services available, most adults in New Zealand are required to pay for the full cost of their dental treatment, as access to free basic dental services is only free of charge until the age of 18. Therefore, 62 per cent of adults aged 18 to 24 reported having visited a dental professional only for dental problems. Over half of adults (54 per cent) reported never having visited a dentist.

According to the report, access to oral health care varies within different regions of the country. Only 37 per cent of adults living in the most socio-economically deprived areas had visited a dental health care worker in the past 12 months, compared with 59 per cent of adults in the least deprived areas.

Overall, 8 per cent of adults had had one or more teeth removed in the past 12 months. The number of tooth extractions was highest among Maori and Pacific adults living in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

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PUBLISHER:
Torsten OEMUS

GROUP EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR DT AP & UK:
Daniel ZIMMERMANN
newsroom@dental-tribune.com

CLINICAL EDITOR:
Magda WOJTKIEWICZ

ONLINE EDITOR:
Claudia DUSCHEK

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DENTAL TRIBUNE INTERNATIONAL
Holbeinstr. 29, 04229, Leipzig, Germany
Tel.: +49 341 48474-302
Fax: +49 341 48474-173
info@dental-tribune.com
www.dental-tribune.com

Regional Offices:

DT ASIA PACIFIC LTD.
c/o Yonto Risio Communications Ltd,
20A, Harvard Commercial Building,
105–111 Thomson Road, Wanchai
Hong Kong
Tel.: +852 3113 6177
Fax: +852 3113 6199

UNITED KINGDOM
Baird House, 4th Floor, 15–17 St. Cross Street
London EC1N 8UW
www.dental-tribune.co.uk
info@dental-tribune.com

DENTAL TRIBUNE AMERICA, LLC
116 West 23rd Street, Suite 500, New York,
NY 10001, USA
Tel.: +1 212 244 7181
Fax: +1 212 224 7185

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Roots Summit 2016

Premier global forum for endodontics takes place in Dubai

By DTI

DUBAI, UAE: This year's ROOTS SUMMIT, which has drawn dental professionals to various locations all over the world in the past decade, will take place from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 at the Crowne Plaza Dubai hotel in the United Arab Emirates. Aimed at updating participants about the latest in endodontic treatment, an unparalleled series of lectures and workshops will be held by global opinion leaders in the field.

Although the meeting will focus exclusively on the latest techniques and technologies in endodontics, the organizers have strongly encouraged not only dentists specializing in the field to attend but all who have an interest in endodontics, including general dentists and manufacturers and suppliers of endodontic products. Overall, about 700 attendees are expected.

Over the past 15 years, the ROOTS SUMMIT has grown significantly. The community originally started as a mailing list of a large group of endodontic enthusiasts in the 1990s. After the establishment of a dedicated Facebook group three years ago, membership increased from 1,000 to more than 20,000. Today, the group is composed of members from over 100 countries.

Previous ROOTS SUMMITS have been held in Canada, the US, Mexico, Spain, the Netherlands, Brazil and last year in India. These meetings have been known for the strength of their scientific programs and their relevancy to clinical practice. The lectures, workshops and hands-on courses scheduled for this year's meeting will be no exception. More than 15 distinguished experts are presenting during the conference.

For the summit in Dubai, the organizers have partnered with Dental Tribune International (DTI) and the Dubai-based Centre for Advanced Professional Practices (CAPP) for the first time. With its international network, composed of the leading publishers in dentistry, DTI reaches more than 650,000 dental professionals in 90 countries through its print, online and educational channels, as well as a number of special events.

Over the past decade, CAPP has been able to establish first-class standards for continuing dental education programs not only in the UAE but also across the Middle East. Since 2012, CAPP has been affiliated with DTI as a strong local partner in the Middle East.

Based on the successes of previous ROOTS SUMMITS, the organizers anticipate a large turnout for this year's meeting. Various sponsorship opportunities are available, including booth space, as well as sponsorships of workshops, hands-on courses, meeting bags and social events.

Online registration for the ROOTS SUMMIT is now open at *www.roots-summit.com*. Dental professionals are also invited to join the ROOTS Facebook group and like the ROOTS SUMMIT 2016 Facebook page.

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The role of the hygienist in the 21st century

By Victoria Wilson, UAE

Since the recent launch of the Emirates Dental Hygienists' Club in the UAE, it could not be a more appropriate time to discuss the growing role of the hygienist in the twenty-first century. The prevalence of preventable dental disease within the region prevails, and the need for a focus on the core strategy to overcome such disease needs to be addressed.

The dental hygiene profession was founded over 100 years ago by Alfred Fones in the US for the promotion of oral health and prevention of disease. The fundamental ethical responsibility of the dental hygienist is the pursuit of the promotion and restoration of oral health. The dentist's role certainly encompasses the promotion of oral health and prevention of disease in diagnosis and operative care; however, it is important to highlight that the main difference is that the scope of practice for a dentist is far greater than for a dental hygienist. This is where the significance lies in the strengths and key focus of these dental care professionals and the key role of both in overall sustainable oral health care for every patient in serving the public.

In a recent survey carried out among dental professionals in the UAE, it became evident that a very small percentage of dentists actually work with dental hygienists. It found further that a limited number of dentists are proactive about integrating hygienists into their practice model. This highlights the potential requirement to further incorporate dental hygiene into dentistry if the existing inequalities of oral disease are to be overcome. This will require an extended workforce of dental hygienists, the expansion of educational facilities and further efforts towards including dental hygienists in existing practices in both public and private health care.

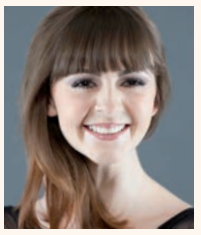
Another recent survey carried out in the region asked dentists how many of their patients are healthy. Regrettably, only a very small percentage reported having patients with good oral health. This again highlights the need for the skill set of the dental hygienist in oral health promotion and prevention of disease.

According to the findings of a further survey in the region, dental hygienists felt that very little of their total skill set was being utilised. This reflects the further need to ensure current dental hygienists' skills are being used to the maximum potential.

In a European report, it has been identified that the UK, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland are ranked as the healthiest in Europe in relation to the low prevalence of severe periodontal disease, supporting the role of the dental hygienist in countries where a facilitative medico-legal framework exists to allow the inclusion of dental hygienists in effective periodontal care. It has also been identified in an international report that oral health needs and the delivery of care are partly mismatched, indicating a further need for the development and integration of the role of the dental hygienist. It has been proposed that advancing education in dental hygiene will achieve better oral and overall health for more people, by transforming the way dental hygiene graduates are prepared for the future to serve the health and wellness needs of society. Increasing clarity on the identity of the profession will affect how it is perceived by the public. In order to reach this point, every member of the dental team needs to be fully on board regarding the role of the dental hygienist and invest time in achieving the optimal success.

A global re-evaluation of requirements is needed to ensure that there is greater utilisation of hygienists in the provision of dental care with efficient and effective use of health care resources. Through evaluating the dental profession's ability to provide care within the core skill sets, it is mandatory that the necessary steps be taken to ensure maximum effectiveness of an integrated dental and health care profession to optimise on reducing the prevalence of preventable dental disease.

It has been advised in a recent extensive report that future public health care policies will be orientated towards recommending behavioural support and adopting the common risk factor approach for oral health promotion. Dental hygienists in public health care settings can positively affect patients by offering preventive care outreach services. Improvement in the quality of life for individuals was noted through improved health outcomes.



Victoria Wilson currently lives in Dubai working as a Dental Hygienist at Dr Roze & Associates Dental Clinic. She is also founder and president of the first official Dental Hygienists Organisation in the Middle East under the Emirates Medical Association and Dubai Dental Society. Wilson can be contacted at victoria@dradubai.com.

AD

New dental alert system aims at improving patient safety in Europe

By DTI

STRASBOURG, France: Requiring dental regulators in countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) to inform each other once a dental professional has been prohibited or restricted from practising, the newly implemented European Alert Mechanism aims at improving transparency in European dentistry.

The new EU legislation, which came into effect on 18 January, provides that a Europe-wide alert be issued within three days of a decision to prohibit, suspend or restrict a professional's practice—even on a temporary basis—in another EEA state.

As a minimum, national regulatory bodies, such as the General Dental Council in the UK or the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden, will need to include the respective professional's name, as well as his or her date and place of birth, in order to allow other regulators to identify that individual.

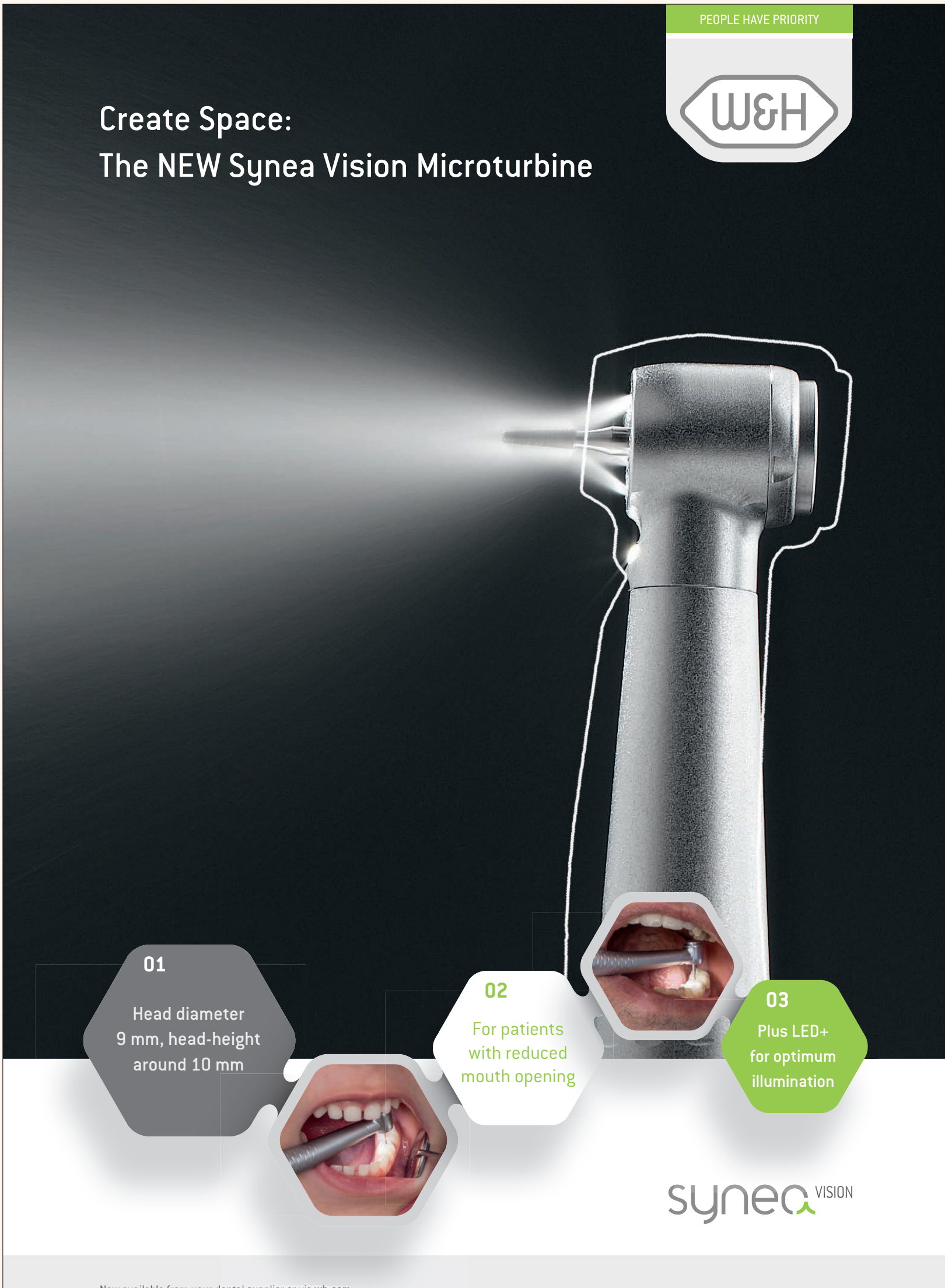
Furthermore, the alert must indicate the period for which the restriction applies, including the date on which this decision was made. Although the alert must not contain any background information or justification of the restriction, concerned regulators may request further information.

"We are delighted that this system has come into effect, it gives patients much greater visibility and security when it comes to their oral health," commented Dr Nigel Carter, OBE, Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, on the new legislation. "This will hopefully lead to an improvement in standards of dental practice Europe-wide and more public trust in dentistry."

In this context, Carter pointed to the increasing trend of dental tourism and the potential pitfalls associated with it.

Although some countries still do not have any formal system of registration for dentists, Carter expressed his belief that "mechanisms such as this make for a much more transparent profession and greater patient protection".

AD



"We will be able to treat pretty much everything in the future"

An interview with Dr Graham Gardner, UK, President of the European Aligner Society

The European Aligner Society is an international organisation established in 2013 that aims to promote education and research in aligner therapy. Trained in South Africa and with 22 years of clinical experience, Dr Graham Gardner has been running his own private practices in the UK since 2008. In an interview with *Dental Tribune*, the EAS President shares his ideas and views about the importance of aligners in orthodontics and about the EAS, which he believes will become *the* society for aligner therapy.

Dr Graham Gardner.

Dental Tribune: **Dr Gardner, you have been working with aligners for more than a decade now. What convinced you initially of this treatment method and what are the main advantages in your experience?**

Dr Graham Gardner: From the beginning of my career in the early 1990s, a time when ceramic brackets and lingual braces became available, I was certainly aware of the fact that aesthetic appliances were going to be the future of orthodontics.

In 2001, I was fortunate to attend a certification course for Invisalign, which was truly a watershed moment in my orthodontic career because I saw the value and potential of aligner therapy for both dental professionals and patients. In my opinion, aligner therapy opened the door for a huge cohort of patients who would not have considered orthodontic therapy in the past mainly owing to aesthetic concerns. In addition to aesthetic benefits, aligners are far more comfortable than fixed appliances, as they are removable and hence facilitate oral hygiene during therapy. They also move the teeth more gently with less pressure, which is favourable with regard to patient comfort and from a biological perspective too.

Today, I treat over 75 per cent of patients with Invisalign in my practices.

In recent years, clear aligners have become a favourable treatment alternative to fixed appliances, and the global orthodontic supplies market is expected to reach about US$3.9 billion (€3.6 billion) by 2020. In your professional opinion, how will this market develop in the near future?

Over the past decade, aligners have become mainstream orthodontics and I definitely see this trend continuing and expanding. With the technological advancements, including 3-D and CAD/CAM, that allow the clinician to diagnose, plan the treatment and confirm biomechanics in a far more in-depth way than ever before, orthodontics is now catching up with the high-tech world we live in—it is twenty-first-century orthodontics.

When aligners were first introduced to the market, there were some limitations and we could only treat mild malocclusions. However, aligner therapy has come of age and is now a genuine appliance system with which we can treat the majority of malocclusions.

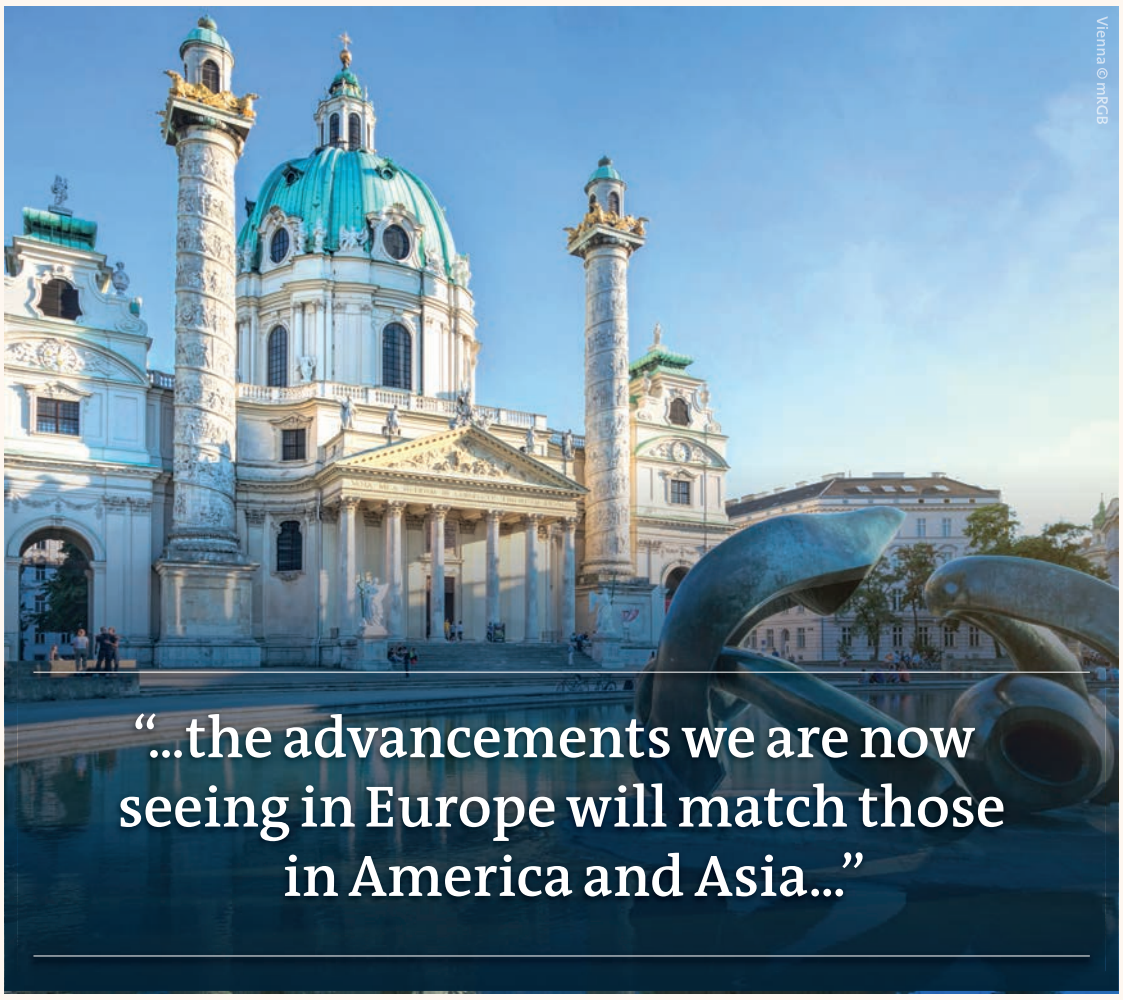
At the moment, however, aligner therapy is still a fairly expensive form of orthodontics. Thus, I hope that improvements in materials and 3-D printing will render manufacture and the product itself more cost-effective. For example, 3-D printers could allow individual practices to print their own aligners in the future.

Overall, with technological advancements and increasing patient acceptance, we will be able to treat pretty much everything in the future in my view.

How have developments in the European and the overseas market differed?

Dentistry as a profession is very conservative and dentists in the US, for example, are perhaps a bit more progressive. However, with regard to aligners, I no longer really see a great difference between Europe and America. The movement is global and I suspect the advancements we are now seeing in Europe will match those in America and Asia, where aligner therapy is also very popular. There are always regional differences, also partly related to legal restrictions, but the trend towards aligner therapy is a global phenomenon.

> "...aligner therapy opened the door for a huge cohort of patients who would not have considered orthodontic therapy in the past..."



How does the EAS address the current trends in orthodontics?

Aligner therapy has seen huge advancements over the past decade, with an increasing number of manufacturers offering different systems today. Thus, the main motivation behind the foundation of the EAS was to establish a neutral body—an international society that is independent of any aligner company and open to all dentists using aligners for orthodontic treatment.

The work of the EAS is characterised by three cornerstones. The first is education, namely arranging conferences and regional meetings and introducing clinical online forums, through which members can interact and share experiences and ideas. The second column of the EAS's philosophy is communication. We aim to be a neutral organisation that patients can turn to for comprehensive information about aligner therapy and that members can consult for guidelines. Research is our third column, which is currently lagging behind. Eventually, we hope to have our own aligner journal or magazine and grant annual awards for excellence in aligner therapy.

With the help of our sponsors, the EAS will grow and become an international umbrella organisation to help promote education and research and development for aligner therapy.

The EAS is a fairly young organisation and hosted its first congress on 13 and 14 February in Vienna. What was the idea behind this event?

The EAS's primary objective is education because, obviously, education underpins every profession and without it we simply stagnate. Therefore, we decided that our first event should be a congress held in the heart of Europe offering a broad spectrum of informative lectures and a showcase of different systems and products. At the first congress in Vienna, internationally distinguished speakers shared their views and expertise about aligner therapy. Moreover, the event offered manufacturers an independent forum for exhibiting their solutions.

Can dental professionals look forward to another EAS congress next year?

Based on the success of the inaugural event over the past weekend, we definitely want the congress to become a regular event in the calendar. While we are planning to hold the EAS congress every two years, we will be organising smaller regional forums on a continuous basis throughout every year.

Thank you very much for the interview.

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American Dental Association seeks exemption for dental offices

By DTI

WASHINGTON, USA: In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a set of regulations for the management of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals by health care facilities, in order to strengthen environmental protection while reducing regulatory burden on businesses. The rules proposed by EPA aim to streamline the current regulations governing such waste and to reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals entering waterways. The American Dental Association (ADA) has now urged the agency to exempt dental care facilities from the rules.

According to EPA, more than 6,400 tons of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals enter waterways annually through health care facilities. Hazardous waste generated by dental offices includes photographic processing waste, chemical sterilant waste, and amalgam waste.

Although the ADA has praised the agency's concern for safe disposal of hazardous waste, the association stated that dental offices generate very little hazardous waste and even lower quantities of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals.

"In the ADA's view, the Proposed Management Standards For Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals rule fails to take into account the specific factual circumstances facing (and resource limitations applicable to) the dental community. As a result, the costs exceed the benefit and EPA seeks to impose requirements that exceed EPA's legal authority," the ADA wrote.

In addition, the ADA has asked that EPA exempt dental amalgam from the definition of pharmaceuticals. "The ADA believes that it is not EPA's intention to include dental amalgam within the definition of pharmaceuticals in the proposed rule," wrote the ADA. "Dental amalgam has not traditionally been considered a pharmaceutical. Neither the rule, the preamble nor other documents in the administrative record express an explicit intention to cover dental amalgam," the association stated.

Moreover, the ADA has called upon EPA to work with the association to develop voluntary options or guidance for dentists regarding the disposal of pharmaceutical waste.

AD

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