

# DENTAL TRIBUNE

— The World's Dental Newspaper - ASEAN Edition —



Dentists across Scotland are **testing AI program that can identify dental caries**

Study indicates denture wearers may be **more at risk of nutritional deficiencies**

Researchers develop customised **3D-printed toothbrush handle for patients with limited dexterity**

## In The Hot Seat

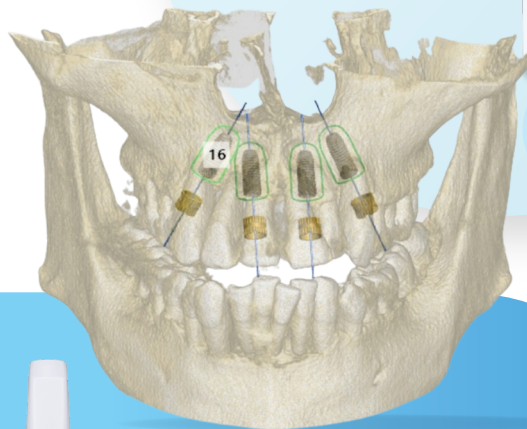
BADN launches menopause policy to **raise awareness and improve working conditions for dental nurses**



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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

**W**e have come to the last issue of the Dental Tribune ASEAN 2022 edition! We are proud and grateful to come a long way since when we first started last year. We hope our coverage of the dentistry industry across the world and specifically in Southeast Asia is adequate for our readers.



Susan Tricia  
Editor

Unauthorized dental services offered by fake dentists becomes a hot topic again recently. This issue has been around prior a few years back and as the demand is still there, they're still operating to this day. Estimated around 130 reports in 2019 of fake dentists cases were received by The Ministry of Health in Malaysia. People especially teens and young adults often seek treatment from the unauthorized dentist at the beautician parlor as it's a lot cheaper and more convenient.

This is alarming as not going to the proper and authorized dentist can cause irreversible damage to the teeth and gums as the process only involves wiring fake teeth or teeth to adjacent teeth. This in return can risk tooth decay and gum problems. Serious treatment like this should be done by a legitimate dentist as it needs a proper

assessment. As 2022 about to come to an end, let's be hopeful that fake dentist service will susbside in the near future.

On the other hand, we are glad to announce that Dental Tribune ASEAN will join the International Dental Exhibition and Meeting (IDEM) 2022 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore from the 7th of October to the 9th of October. See you there! Dental Tribune ASEAN will be circulated in dental exhibitions, seminars, and even webinars across ASEAN providing additional mileage for advertisers of the magazine and reaching out to new subscribers. Visit our website at [asean.dental-tribune.com](http://asean.dental-tribune.com) for more updates.

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# CONTENTS

## Clinical news

- 6 Providing best orthodontic treatment in era of patient empowerment
- 8 Study indicates denture wearers may be more at risk of nutritional deficiencies

## World news

- 9 NHS releases worrying dental statistics for England
- 10 Osstell announces new CEO will take up position in September
- 11 Dentists across Scotland are testing AI program that can identify dental caries
- 12 Exhibitors stack up for IDS's centennial event in 2023



## Innovations

- 13 "Our tools make so much sense for anyone who has teeth"
- 16 Researchers develop customised 3D-printed toothbrush handle for patients with limited dexterity

## Regional news

- 18 China caps cost of dental implant treatment

## In the hot seat

- 20 Oral-B and iADH to put patients with disabilities at heart of their partnership

- 22 BADN launches menopause policy to raise awareness and improve working conditions for dental nurses

## Business

- 26 Oral-B and Straumann: Raising the bar to limit periodontal and peri-implant disease, from chair to self-care



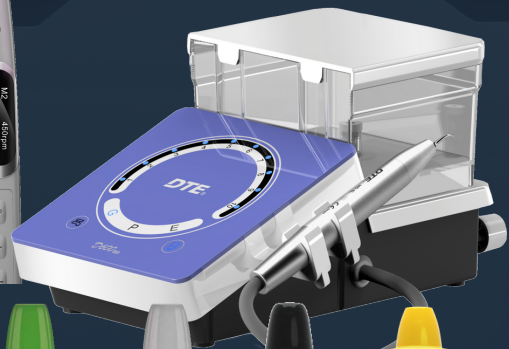
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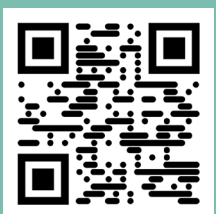
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# Providing best orthodontic treatment in era of patient empowerment

By Dental Tribune International



*In the age of patient empowerment, consumers want digital solutions and they want to feel that their treatment is specifically designed for them. (Image: Kulniz/Shutterstock)*

Digital technologies have changed the way in which we live and the ways in which we align teeth. According to leading UK orthodontic specialist Dr Guy Deeming, these changes can no longer be seen as being mutually exclusive. In a free webinar on 15 September, Dr Deeming will speak about the ways in which new orthodontic technologies can address patients' changing behaviour and expectations and improve clinical outcomes and the patient experience.

“The era of patient empowerment is here, and it is not going away. It is right in front of our eyes, if we care to see it,” Dr Deeming told Dental Tribune International.

The term patient empowerment is used increasingly today in order to describe the greater level of control and involvement that patients have in their dental care, particularly when it comes to aesthetic treatments. Dr Deeming, who provides training to other orthodontists and who has treated nearly 3,000 clear aligner cases, explained that the term refers to the broader

empowerment of consumers in the digital age. He said: “Patient empowerment is actually more about consumer empowerment because one of the things that we see in our daily lives is that we are more and more in control of how we interact with businesses, whether it be online banking or appointment booking. Why should dentistry—and orthodontics, in particular—be any different?”

In his upcoming free webinar, Dr Deeming will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the changing landscape of orthodontic treatment and the ways in which shifts in consumer behaviour have affected patient expectations. He will go into depth about how dentists can leverage digital communication channels in order to improve interaction with new and existing patients, and he will also detail the clinical benefits offered by technologies that increase patient empowerment, such as remote monitoring, artificial intelligence and teledentistry platforms.





Leading UK orthodontic specialist Dr Guy Deeming. (Image Guy Deeming/DT Study Club)

***“What we are seeing is that consumers want faster treatments. They want digital solutions, and they want fewer appointments”***

According to Dr Deeming, the new and emerging technologies that he will discuss enable dentists to deliver patient-centred oral care and align treatment with patient expectations. “These technologies fit well with how people are used to interacting and, most importantly, they do not compromise the quality of work that you are able to deliver to your patients,” he said. They include messaging systems or technologies based on mobile applications, such as those seen within the DentalMind and DentalMonitoring platforms, and those that offer virtual consultations and in-face visualisations.

“What we are seeing is that consumers want faster treatments. They want digital solutions, and they want fewer appointments. They want to feel that they have ownership of their treatment and to feel that their care is specifically designed for them,” Dr Deeming stated.

An orthodontist and partner at Queensway Orthodontics, Dr Deeming runs seven specialist orthodontic clinics in north-east England and is a clinical speaker for the Invisalign system and for DentalMonitoring. He was formerly director for clinical practice at the British Orthodontic Society.



# Doctors should confirm penicillin allergy claims to prevent antibiotic overuse in dentistry

By Anisha Hall Hoppe, Dental Tribune International

Antibiotic resistance as a result of overprescription is a topic of great concern for researchers and activists across all specialties within medicine, dentistry not excluded. Dr Bodil Lund, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and head of the Department of Dental Medicine at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden is a supporter of rational antibiotic therapy in dentistry.

“Penicillin works very well on dental infections. However, about 10% of patients tell their dentist that they’re allergic to penicillin, even though only about 1% of the population actually is. The allergic patients are given clindamycin, which is a broad-spectrum antibiotic. I usually urge dentists here to ask their patients to get checked out by a doctor,” said Prof. Lund in an interview conducted by the Karolinska Institutet.

Prof. Lund cited examples from Sweden where there has been a 30% drop in the number of prescriptions written by Swedish dentists since 2007. However, there are still stark differences in the number of antibiotic prescriptions in different regions, and there is a greater reduction in prescriptions in public dental care than there is in the private sector.

Dentists the world over have initiated antibiotic education campaigns in recent years. In the UK, a number of organisations, including the British Dental Association, the College of General Dentistry and the Association of Clinical Oral Microbiologists, have joined forces to encourage dental professionals and patients to remember the simple message that “Antibiotics do not cure toothache”. In addition, recent studies have indicated that antibiotic prophylaxis may not prevent postoperative infections.

According to a 2020 study published in the *British Dental Journal*, even prior to the pandemic, 80% of the antibiotics prescribed by dentists in the UK and the US resulted in unnecessary antibiotic use that was not in accordance with general guidelines.



*According to Dr Bodil Lund, about 10% of patients tell their dentist that they’re allergic to penicillin, even though only about 1% of the population actually is. (Image: SnapshotPhotos/Shutterstock)*

Meanwhile, in Sweden, Prof. Lund is pushing for more education and research into antibiotic overuse. She co-authored a recent study that indicated that the risk of endocarditis is not heightened with reduced antibiotic administration. The study found no significant indications of increased morbidity in patients at high risk of infective endocarditis after Sweden’s move to reduce antibiotic use—a move meant to reduce antibiotic resistance and borne of a lack of evidence of its necessity.

“Treating infections ‘just to be on the safe side’ is a thing of the past,” commented Prof. Lund on the troubling trend. “Broad-spectrum antibiotics also need to be used less,” she added. Lund and her colleagues at Karolinska Institutet are striving to understand where knowledge is lacking within dentistry in order to best respond to the large number of unnecessary prescriptions.

# NHS releases worrying dental statistics for England

By Iveta Ramonaite, Dental Tribune International

Late in August, the National Health Service (NHS) released the annual dental statistics for England. The report provides information on NHS dental activity in the country for the 12-month period ending March 2022 and includes data on the number of patients seen by NHS dentists up to the end of June 2022.

To limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, dental practices in England were instructed to close from 25 March 2020 and provide emergency care only until the government announced the slow reopening of the businesses from 8 June 2020.

According to the report, only 16.4 million adults (34%) accessed NHS dental care in the 24 months prior to 31 March 2022. Similarly, the number of children seen by an NHS dentist dropped to 5.6 million (44.8%). According to the British Dental Association (BDA), the figures were at 48.6% and 58.7% respectively in the last full year before the pandemic.

Additionally, the data showed that as few as 26.4 million courses of NHS dental treatment were delivered between 2021 and 2022, compared with an average number of 39.4 million courses delivered annually in the five years before the pandemic. Unfortunately, although dental professionals have been required

to deliver 100% of their pre-pandemic activity from April this year, the BDA noted that the imposed targets have not resulted in an increase in the volume of NHS dentistry delivered.

## Mounting crisis and looming death of NHS

Since the beginning of the lockdown, the NHS has experienced enormous patient backlogs owing to limited access to dental services. Highlighting the true extent of the NHS dentistry crisis, recent research conducted by the BBC reported that nine in ten NHS practices have said that they are unable to accept new adult patients.

In response to the recent dental statistics for England, the BDA noted that there is an urgent need for radical change in order to reform dental services in the country.

“What we’re seeing isn’t a recovery but a service on its last legs,” said Dr Eddie Crouch, chair of the BDA Principal Executive Committee, in a press release.

“NHS dentistry is light years away from where it needs to be. Unless ministers step up and deliver much needed reform and decent funding, this will remain the new normal,” he concluded.



A recent report published by NHS England showed a staggering drop in the number of patients accessing NHS dental services in recent years. (Image: LunaKate/Shutterstock)