

News briefs

Baby has neonatal tooth removed at 12 days old

A baby girl born with a tooth and had it removed at just 12 days old in early August. The infant, named Isla-Rose, was treated at Seven Trees Dental Access Centre, where the dentist used numbing cream as she was too young for a general anesthetic. The story was widely reported in the national media.

The BDA's scientific advisor, Professor Damien Walmsley, explained how neonatal teeth are often loose because the roots are not properly developed and that there is a risk of a detached tooth entering the child's lungs, but this is extremely rare.

Eating disorders and their impact on teeth

BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour explored how eating disorders can damage teeth in an edition which featured Laura Dennison who suffered from bulimia for five years.

Also speaking on the programme, private London dentist Uchenna Okoye pointed out that eating disorders are not the only cause of erosion and drew listeners' attention to NICE tips on how to minimise such damage to teeth.

Tongue-splitting now illegal

People who have cosmetic treatment to split their tongue are at serious risk of haemorrhage, infection and even nerve damage, surgeons have warned. In a joint statement, the Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) at the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) and the British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) warn that, following a recent court case, 'body modification practitioners' in England and Wales offering tongue splitting are now likely to be doing so illegally.

The procedure is often offered alongside regulated procedures such as tattooing and piercing, but there has been uncertainty over the legal status of tongue splitting for some time – it is not covered under any existing legislation, so is in effect entirely unregulated. However, in England and Wales a Court of Appeal judgement recently found tongue splitting to be illegal, constituting grievous bodily harm, when performed by a body modification practitioner for cosmetic purposes, even in instances where consent has been obtained.

DENTAL TEAMS GO GLOBAL

Over two million twitter impressions from more than 200 individual dental tweeters across the globe were generated to mark the hashtag campaign #dentistry24. With tweets from all over the UK, Australia and the US, #dentistry24 kick-started a great first year.

The purpose of the campaign is to increase positivity and morale whilst facilitating shared learning and networking. It's a chance for everyone involved in dentistry - dental teams, academics, industry, students, universities and professional bodies - to participate and share good news and good practice.

Fun photos of dental teams at work, pictures of oral health promotion, students at university, and dentists on study days flooded the twitter account in a constant stream. Check out some of the messages generated on May 24th, join the #dentistry24 movement and if you are on Twitter, follow @UKDentistry24 and look out for updates for next year's event.



3. Smiles Across Nepal

'Dentistry24 means that I could showcase the great work this small dental charity does on a global scale' – *Tashfeen*

4. Cheshire & Merseyside DCP Champions

'Dentistry24 is a platform to highlight to the dental community how DCPs can facilitate dental education and create a learning network' – *Lynne*

5. Disruptive Innovators

'#dentistry24 gives the disruptive innovators a way to reach out to other young dentists who want to carve out their own niche in the profession and a way to provide support other aspiring change-makers and game-changers' – *Janine*

6. Smile Squad of Sheffield's School of Clinical Dentistry

'The School of Clinical Dentistry of the University of Sheffield got involved with #Dentistry24 to share positive dental news about our research, teaching and student activities. On 24th May we tweeted every hour to showcase our world leading research, public engagement events, outreach training, postgraduate teaching and our Smile Squad group of hard working student volunteers.

7. Sharrow Dental

'#dentistry24 is an opportunity to thank each and every member of our fantastic team for their unrelenting loyalty and hard work to keep Sharrow Dental Practice an essential part of the local community' – *Frank*

8. J Smallridge Dental Care, Ipswich

'Saying thank you to our wonderful team of dentists, nurses and receptionists who provide great care to the local community in Suffolk' – *Jo*



1. Glodwick Dental Centre:

'#dentistry24 gave an opportunity for our Dental team to support a great event, allowing us to specifically showcase the skill mix in our team. We had dentists, foundation dentists, dental therapist, practice manager, extended duty dental nurses, dental nurses and trainee dental nurses' – *Mohsan*

2. Student OHP Group – Queen Mary's

'The work showcased on #dentistry24 inspires us to contribute to the positive side of dentistry, connecting us with other individuals and groups that care about oral health. As students, it is all too easy to question our reach and let limitations hinder our efforts. It is so encouraging to see other community groups delivering similar oral health promotion – we understand that as part of something bigger, our actions at a local level can still make a sizeable impact.'