

performed, which could indicate the most likely diagnosis, before more complex investigations.

G. K. Randhawa, R. M. Graham,
Manchester, UK

References

1. Bansal V, Kumar S, Mowar A. Unusual causes of trismus: a report of two cases. *J Maxillofac Oral Surg* 2009; **8**: 377-380.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-019-1062-4>

Prosthodontics

Resourceful denture engineering

Sir, a 60-year-old male presented to our Dental Hospital's Acute Adult Dental Care Clinic complaining of pain from his carious lower anterior retained roots. Clinical examination also revealed a partially handcrafted, upper, complete denture that the patient said he had 'made himself'. He had previously worked as a fabrication welding engineer and used his skills to modify his upper, acrylic, complete denture when it broke in half.

He had glued half of another denture that he had found in the medical recycling plant that he was working in at the time to one of the broken halves of his own denture (Fig. 1a).

The other handmade parts of the denture were as follows (Fig. 1b):

- The 12 was constructed from a gold locket that the patient had melted down and moulded into the shape of a lateral incisor
- The 13 was cut from the end of a flat gold plug pin that was taken from an electrical mains plug
- The patient reported that the upper right posterior flange was made from a dark grey chalk-like material.

While the resulting denture was neither retentive nor stable, and had very poor aesthetics (Fig. 1c), the patient is clearly talented and was proud of his unique creation. The fact that he resorted to DIY dentistry is a broader reflection of the struggles faced by patients in accessing affordable dental care when NHS options are disappearing. Indeed, a quick search of the internet came up with YouTube videos and

websites dedicated to making DIY false teeth.¹ Some patients have even resorted to pulling out their own teeth.² This is a clear sign that NHS dentistry needs to be more accessible to patients and we welcome the new CQC focus on the growing crisis in patient access to NHS primary dental care³ that will hopefully reduce the knock-on effects on secondary care.⁴

S. Lincoln, C. L. Harwood, Sheffield, UK

References

1. How to make your own false teeth – make dentures at home (2017) YouTube video, added by ScudoCamper. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-yrbvx6E> (accessed 17 October 2019).

2. Rhodes D. *We couldn't see an NHS dentist so we pulled out our own teeth*. BBC News, 6 September 2017. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-41113507> (accessed 17 October 2019).

3. British Dental Association. *Dentists welcome CQC focus on NHS access threat to patient care*. 2019. Available at: <https://bda.org/news-centre/press-releases/Pages/Dentists-welcome-CQC-focus-on-NHS-access-threat-to-patient-care.aspx> (accessed 17 October 2019).

4. Care Quality Commission. *The state of health care and adult social care in England 2018/19*. 2019. Available at: https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20191015b_stateofcare1819_fullreport.pdf (accessed 17 October 2019).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-019-1061-5>



Fig. 1 The handcrafted upper complete denture (a) Fitting surface, (b) The custom made teeth - * constructed from gold locket, # constructed from flat plug pin, § chalk-like material, (c) aesthetic appearance in the patient's mouth

BDJ RESEARCH INSIGHTS FOR ANOTHER VIEW

- Research insights from across the BDJ Portfolio
- Providing busy readers with valuable context including article summaries and expert commentary

Catch up here: <http://bit.ly/BDJResearchInsights>

