

Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.
The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by Reena Wadia.

Dentine hypersensitivity – barriers to discussion

Asimakopoulou K, West N, Davies M, Gupta A, Parkinson C, Scambler S. Why don't dental teams routinely discuss dentine hypersensitivity during consultations? A qualitative study informed by the Theoretical Domains Framework. *J Clin Periodontol* 2023; DOI: 10.1111/jcpe.13885.

Systemic and behavioural barriers to dentine hypersensitivity conversations explain why these conversations don't occur routinely.

Although dentine hypersensitivity is widespread and significant, it is not routinely discussed in appointments. This qualitative study aimed to develop an understanding of the barriers and facilitators to these discussions. Seven online focus groups were organised with a total of 40 participants comprising experienced dentists, foundation trainees and dental care professionals. An attitude-behaviour gap was observed. Although they saw it as part of their professional role to routinely discuss sensitivity and believed that such conversations were 'an easy win', in practice they experienced several barriers that hindered these conversations, including competing priorities, a perceived lack of seriousness, and practical issues such as time.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-023-6574-2>

Tissue revascularisation graft at implant sites

Tavelli L, Kripfgans O D, Chan H-L et al. Doppler ultrasonographic evaluation of tissue revascularization following connective tissue graft at implant sites. *J Clin Periodontol* 2023; DOI: 10.1111/jcpe.13889.

The main differences in tissue perfusion between CAF and TUN were observed at the interproximal sites.

This study assessed the Doppler ultrasonographic tissue perfusion at dental implant sites augmented with connective tissue graft (CTG) using coronally advanced flap (CAF) or tunnel technique (TUN). Twenty-eight patients presenting with isolated healthy peri-implant soft-tissue dehiscence (PSTD) were included in this randomised clinical trial. PSTDs were treated with either CAF + CTG or TUN + CTG. Ultrasound scans were taken and tissue perfusion assessed by colour Doppler velocity (CDV) and power Doppler imaging (PDI). Early vascularisation of the graft and the flap at 1 week and at 1 month were evaluated via dynamic tissue perfusion measurements (DTPMs), including flow intensity (FI), mean perfusion relief intensity (pRI) and mean perfused area (pA). Regression analysis did not reveal significant differences in terms of mid-facial CDV and PDI changes between CAF and TUN over 12 months, while significant differences were observed at interproximal areas. Higher early DTPMs were observed at the TUN-treated sites compared with CAF-treated sites at 1 week. Assessment of the FI direction showed that CTG perfusion at 1 week and at 1 month mainly occurred from the flap towards the implant/bone. Outcomes were associated with the 12-month mean PSTD coverage and mucosal thickness gain.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-023-6576-0>

Tobacco cessation discussions

Wiener R C, Patel J S. Oral and oropharyngeal cancer screening and tobacco cessation discussions, NHANES 2011-2018. *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 2023; DOI: 10.1111/cdoe.12921.

There is an increased need for OOPC screening and the discussion of tobacco use by dental professionals among their patients who use tobacco, particularly for female patients.

Tobacco cessation discussions and oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancer (OOPC) screenings are important factors in decreasing the risk of OOPC or its late-stage diagnosis. This study aimed to determine if there is an association of sex with tobacco cessation discussions and OOPC screenings conducted by dental healthcare professionals. Data from 8 years of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2011–2018) were merged. Data from participants, ages 30 years and above, who self-reported current use of tobacco, a dental visit within the previous year and responded to questions about oral cancer screening were analysed. There were 22% who had an OOPC screening by a dental professional within the previous year. Of the 41% who reported having had a conversation with a dental professional within the previous year about the benefits of tobacco cessation, 10% reported having both the conversation and OOPC screening. Men were less likely than women to have the combination of neither OOPC screening nor advice about tobacco cessation.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-023-6575-1>

Third molar agenesis

Kanavakis G, Alamoudi R, Oeschger E S, Tacchi M, Halazonetis D, Gkantidis N. Third molar agenesis relates to human craniofacial form. *Eur J Orthod* 2023; DOI: 10.1093/ejo/cjad057.

There is a strong association between third molar formation and craniofacial shape.

This study investigated the association between the number of third molars and craniofacial shape. The sample comprised 470 individuals out of whom 310 had a full permanent dentition including third molars and 160 had at least one missing third molar. Pre-orthodontic treatment cephalometric images were digitised using 127 landmarks to describe the shape of the entire craniofacial configuration, the cranial base, the maxilla, and the mandible. The shapes of the various configurations were described by principal components (PCs) of shape. There was a strong association between third molar agenesis and the shape of all craniofacial configurations in both sexes. Individuals with missing third molars presented a less convex craniofacial configuration, a shorter anterior facial height and a more retrusive maxilla and mandible. In cases with third molar agenesis only in one jaw, shape differences were also evident in the opposing jaw.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-023-6577-z>