

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 John R. Radford.

RADIATION-INDUCED ORAL MUCOSITIS

The effect of topical application of pure honey on radiation-induced mucositis: a randomised clinical trial

Motallebnejad M, Akram S *et al.* *J Contemp Dent Pract* 2008; **9**: 40-47

Honey reduced the signs of radiation-induced oral mucositis.

The most common acute side-effect of head and neck radiotherapy is oral mucositis. Since time immemorial, honey has been used to treat wounds. In this randomised single-blind study (examiner-blind), 40 patients requiring radiotherapy for head and neck cancer were allocated to either a group that received honey or a control group who rinsed with saline. Signs of mucositis were recorded at weekly intervals for 6 weeks after radiotherapy. Several subjects dropped out during the study. At each time interval, mucositis was significantly less when the subjects used honey. In addition, they suffered significantly less weight loss. Within the authors' admitted limitations of this study, it was concluded that honey had a remarkable effect ameliorating the signs of this debilitating condition.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.751

LOCAL ANALGESIA

A prospective, randomized, double-blind comparison of articaine and lidocaine for maxillary infiltrations

Evans G, Nusstein J *et al.* *J Endodontology* 2008; **34**: 389-393

Articaine and lidocaine did not consistently achieve analgesia.

Previous studies, contrary to anecdote, have shown that the success of local analgesia with articaine is not superior to lidocaine for both inferior dental block and infiltration analgesia. The aim of this study was to confirm or refute this observation. Amongst other measurements, pulpal analgesia (no response from an electric pulp tester at maximum output) in both maxillary lateral incisor and first molar teeth, was measured in each of 80 subjects acting as their own controls, following the infiltration of either one cartridge of 4% articaine or 2% lidocaine, each containing 1:100,000 adrenaline. Articaine had a significantly higher success rate than lidocaine for lateral incisors (88% v 62% respectively) but there was no difference for first molar teeth (78% v 73%). Successful pulpal analgesia, regardless of agent, was considerably lower in this study than in others.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.752

PROFESSIONALISM

Analysis of the ethical aspects of professional confidentiality in dental practice

Garbin CAS, Garbin AJI *et al.* *J Appl Oral Sci* 2008; **16**: 75-80

Patient confidentiality in Brazil did not extend to colleagues and spouses.

Confidentiality is at the heart of a carer's professional ethic. The aim of this study was to explore the attitudes and values of dentists, to this imperative. One hundred and twenty dentists, working in São Paulo State, Brazil, were invited to complete a questionnaire enquiring as to how they discharged their duty of confidentiality, including how this extended to those working with them and their family. One hundred replied. There was a contradiction as to what they professed and how this was practised. Over 90% espoused the virtues of confidentiality although 44% made comments about the treatment of their patients to colleagues, friends and spouse.

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POST CROWNS

The effect of post-core and ferrule on the fracture resistance of endodontically treated maxillary central incisors

Sendhilnathan D, Nayar S. *Indian J Dent Res* 2008; **19**: 17-21

Cast post and core incorporating a ferrule had the most favourable outcome.

In this study *in vitro*, root treated central incisor teeth were restored using different well established techniques and then subjected to lingual loading until tooth fracture. Each restorative method, which did not include quartz fibre posts, was tested on ten teeth. Analysis of variance demonstrated that, somewhat surprisingly, those teeth restored with a customised cast post and core and then crowned with a metal ceramic restoration without a 2 mm ferrule, did as well as the control teeth that were neither root treated, nor restored. Those teeth restored with a prefabricated post and composite core and then a metal ceramic crown had significantly the lowest fracture values regardless as to whether or not there was a ferrule. This study showed that a customised cast post and core, restored with a crown with a 2 mm ferrule, had the highest fracture values.

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