

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible.

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BLOOD PLATELET BIOMATERIAL ENHANCES IMPLANT HEALING

A newly published study reports that blood platelet biomaterial enhances healing after dental implant insertion.¹ An all-inclusive procedure was performed on a patient who had fractured an incisor during a sport-related accident. The broken tooth was extracted, an implant inserted, and a biomaterial of leukocyte and platelet-rich fibrin was used.

According to the article, leukocyte- and platelet-rich fibrin stimulates the healing process. Strong fibrin membranes enriched with cells and platelet growth factors are an inexpensive biomaterial. Taking only 15 minutes to prepare, the biomaterial is a practical and effective application to use in implant dentistry. Its anti-haemorrhage properties are well-suited for this surgery.

The use of this fibrin meant that no incisions or sutures were needed, which allowed optimal healing conditions. Positive healing characteristics were noticed two days after the surgery; at seven days the gingival aesthetic profile was well defined. At six months, a satisfactory final result of the surgery was evident. Two years later, the restoration has proved to be stable and aesthetic.

1. Del Corso M, Mazor Z, Rutkowski J L, Dohan Ehrenfest D M. The use of leukocyte- and platelet-rich fibrin during immediate postextractive implantation and loading for the esthetic replacement of a fractured maxillary central incisor. *J Oral Implantol* 2012; **38**: 181-187.

CANTERBURY DENTAL TEAM RESUSCITATE LOCAL BABY



Back row l-r: Sarah Lindley (senior nurse), Sheila Gurung (dental nurse), Sam Mitchell (dental nurse), Michelle Kennett (senior nurse), Julia Whitehead (practice manager). Front row l-r: Dr Richard Flanagan (specialist orthodontist) and Agnes Wrodarczyk with her son Henry

The dental team at the Richard Flanagan and Associates orthodontic practice in Canterbury, put their medical emergencies training to good use recently when they brought a 10-month-old local child back to life.

Canterbury resident Agnes Wrodarczyk was at home with her baby son Henry on 19 April when he appeared to suffer a seizure and his heart and breathing stopped. Panicking, Agnes and her partner Adrian Littler rang 999 then decided to take Henry to the nearby orthodontic practice.

Specialist orthodontist Dr Richard Flanagan and senior dental nurse Michelle Kennett performed CPR and managed to resuscitate Henry. By coincidence,

the dental team had attended their annual medical emergencies update just one week earlier.

'After about 30-40 compressions the baby just sprang to life,' said Dr Flanagan. 'It was the most amazing feeling. After ensuring the airway was clear of obstruction, we initiated CPR with 4-5 rescue breaths via an Ambu bag. The important thing to remember is to ensure the lungs are inflating either with air or positive pressure oxygen, which is what we used in Henry's case.'

Paramedics arrived and Henry was taken to Ashford Hospital, where he spent the night. He has since made a full recovery. It is believed that the seizure may have been caused by a virus.

Jo Williams, the practice manager, said that the incident highlighted the importance of regular training in emergency procedures for the dental team. 'Especially as in this instance, it was a member of the general public and not a patient who accessed the surgery, reflecting the general public's reliance on dental professionals as individuals who should be competent in coping with medical emergencies.'