

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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HOW ARE WE DOING?

What do you think of your journal? The *BDJ* is inviting all readers to take part in a survey that aims to understand reader perceptions of the *BDJ* and the content we publish. The survey should take about five minutes to complete.

At the end of the survey you will have the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a MacBook Air.

A link to the survey is available from the *BDJ* website and can also be accessed directly at:

http://bit.ly/BDJreader_survey2012. It closes on 14 September 2012.

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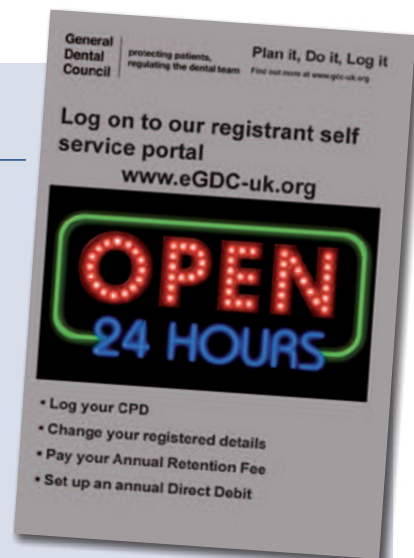
TWELVE PERCENT OF DCPs HAVE LOGGED NO CPD

The General Dental Council (GDC) has produced some posters for dental practices to use to remind dental care professionals (DCPs) of their continuing professional development (CPD) obligations.

With less than a year to go until the end of the first five-year cycle of CPD for more than 40,000 DCPs, the GDC is urging employers to ensure their dental team know exactly what's expected of them. This means they must complete 150 hours of CPD by 31 July 2013 or risk losing their GDC registration.

According to GDC figures in August, 12,700 (32%) of DCPs have logged all of their hours (including 50 hours of verifiable CPD); 4,600 (12%) have logged no hours; and dental technicians are the least likely to have logged any hours, with 23% having not yet declared any.

The 2013 deadline affects DCPs who registered on or before 31 July 2008.



The GDC's service for logging CPD hours can be accessed at: www.gdc-uk.org. The posters can be accessed at: www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/CPD/Documents/CPD%20posters.pdf.

TITANIUM FRAGMENTS FOUND IN TISSUE NEAR IMPLANTS

Titanium implants used in bone-anchored dental prostheses may not be as robust as is commonly believed, according to new evidence from scientists.¹

Collaborative research led by Dr Owen Addison has found evidence to suggest that in environments where there is no significant wear process, microscopic particles of titanium can be found in the surrounding tissue. This can potentially be pro-inflammatory and affect the performance of the device.

Globally, more than 1,000 tonnes of titanium (Ti) is implanted into patients in the form of biomedical devices every year. Metallic prostheses, fixation and anchoring devices are used extensively for orthopaedic, craniofacial and dental rehabilitation and their effects on the body are widely perceived to be predictable following initial implantation.

For this study, tissue was obtained from patients undergoing scheduled revision surgery associated with bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA) at University

Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust. Soft tissues surrounding commercially pure titanium anchorage devices were investigated using microfocus synchrotron X-ray spectroscopy at the Diamond Light Source (Oxford, UK).

'The results showed, for the first time, a scattered and heterogenous distribution of Ti in inflamed tissues taken from around failing skin-penetrating Ti implants,' the authors report. Wear processes and implant debris were unlikely to be major contributors to the problem, they concluded. 'In the absence of obvious macroscopic wear or loading processes, we propose that the Ti in the tissue results from

micro-motion and localised corrosion in surface crevices.'

The development of peri-implant inflammation may result in the premature loss of the implanted device or the requirement for revision/rescue surgery.

'Titanium is still the most appropriate material to put into bone. [...] However, these findings demonstrate that improvements in these materials can be sought,' said Dr Addison. Research at Birmingham is currently being conducted to understand the mechanisms by which the debris is produced.

1. Addison O, Davenport A J, Newport R J et al. Do 'passive' medical titanium surfaces deteriorate in service in the absence of wear? *J R Soc Interface* 2012; Epub ahead of print.