

EARLY ANCESTORS USED TOOTH PICKS

Researchers have discovered that tooth wear and tooth picking are responsible for dentoalveolar remodelling in 1.77 million-year-old hominin samples from Dmanisi, explaining the wide range of mandibular shape variation.¹ Variation in cranial and dentoalveolar morphologies in early Pleistocene hominins is well known, but the reasons behind such diversity have been largely unexplored until now.

Increasing severity of tooth wear corresponded with increasing age, with moderate overall wear being recorded in the young adult Dmanisi, wear-induced pathological changes in the older adult and edentulousness in the senile individual. Due to continuous eruption, mesial drift and lingual tipping, tooth wear can have a pronounced effect on mandibular morphology and wear-related reshaping of the jawbones. Such mandibular shape variation is within the normal range of expected variation for a paleopopulation with light to heavy dental wear.

Significantly, horizontal scratches on teeth and local marginal periodontitis add to the growing evidence for habitual use of toothpicks during the period. The findings provide the earliest evidence of tooth-pick induced local periodontitis. The authors conclude that further research into age- and wear-related dentognathic changes is needed to assess the impact on remodelling patterns and variation in other fossil hominins.

1. Margvelashvili A, Zollikofer C P, Lordkipanidze D, Peltomäki T, Ponce de León M S. Tooth wear and dentoalveolar remodeling are key factors of morphological variation in the Dmanisi mandibles. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2013; 110: 17278–17283.

By Laura Pacey

PASHLEY TAKES PODIUM AT FIRST PAN-LONDON LECTURE

The first pan-London dental lecture on 2 September 2013 was a rare opportunity to hear the world-renowned academic, Professor David H. Pashley, Emeritus Regents Professor of Oral Biology at the College of Dental Medicine and Professor of Physiology and Endocrinology in the School of Medicine, Georgia Regents University, Augusta, USA.

Professor Pashley spoke on *Dentine sensitivity vs. hypersensitivity: treatment options*. The lecture was co-chaired by Dr S. K Sidhu of Queen Mary University of London and Professor T. F. Watson of King's College London Dental Institute.

The presentation centred on the possible mechanisms that trigger the pain associated with dentine sensitivity and how sensitivity can turn into hypersensitivity.

The lecture highlights the joint efforts and collaboration between two leading academic institutions as well as industry to bring high profile, international key opinion leaders in the world of dentistry to dental students, academic and clinical staff in London.

TURKEY DINNER WITH A SCALE AND POLISH

Crisis at Christmas are making their annual call to specialist volunteers to help provide homeless and vulnerably housed people with much needed services over the festive season, running from 23 December through to 29 December.

Crisis is looking for qualified dentists, dental nurses and dental hygienists to help run their dental service and build on the success of 2012, when more than 300 patients received dental treatment.

Ten centres will be set up in London by Crisis providing companionship and hot meals for homeless and vulnerably housed people as well as health checks, housing advice, training and further education opportunities.

The dental service relies on qualified volunteers to provide a range of routine dental treatments including check-ups, scale and polishes and fillings.

Each shift is from 10 am to 7 pm and Crisis asks that each volunteer signs up for a minimum of two shifts between 23–29 December.

Online volunteer applications are now open at www.crisis.org.uk/pages/volunteering-at-crisis-christmas.html or you can call 0300 636 1000.



DIARY

The Dental Operating Microscope in Endodontics

Date: 7 December 2013
Venue: UCL Eastman Dental Institute
Email: marjorie.kelly@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: 020 7950 1234

BDA/BDJ Winter Lecture: Biofilms: a new approach to dental plaque

Date: 12 December 2013
Venue: BDA, London
www.bda.org/winterlecture

ESAO Conference: How to practise aesthetic orthodontics safely, ethically and legally as a GDP

Date: 14 December 2013
Venue: RCOG, London
<http://esao.co.uk/event-registration/>

Essences of Anterior Implant Aesthetics: The Perio-Ortho-Restorative Connection (1996–2014)

Date: 18 January 2014
Telephone: 020 8487 5555
www.adi.org.uk/jan-masterclass2014

BDA Seminar: White, whiter, whitest: successful strategies for predictable teeth whitening

Date: 31 January 2014
Venue: BDA, London
Email: events@bda.org
Telephone: 020 7563 4590
www.bda.org/seminars

Oral-B Up To Date seminar

Date and location: 13 February 2014, Bristol; 27 February 2014, Plymouth; 13 March 2014, Warrington; 27 March 2014, Newcastle
Telephone: 07585 508550
Email: julia@ab-communications.com
www.dentalcare.com

STUDY CLUB LAUNCH

The specialist practice PerioLondon celebrated the launch of its study clubs for dentists and hygienists on 18 September at Chandos House, London. Eighty dental professionals attended the celebration hosted by Dr Paul Baker, Professor Ian Needleman and Dr Rajiv Patel.