

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.

'PARTICULARLY UNRELIABLE FOR DENTISTRY'

The 100 most cited articles in dentistry

Feijoo JF, Limeres J *et al. Clin Oral Invest*; DOI: 10.1007/s00784-013-1017-0

The third most cited dental article describes the experimental gingivitis study by Harald Loë that recruited 12 volunteers only.

The investigators in this paper ascertained the hundred most cited dental articles published during the past 60 years. The second most cited article illustrates rehabilitation of the edentulous jaw using osseointegrated implants. And at number one, is a review on extracellular matrix metalloproteinases! Each of the four most highly cited dental articles exceeds 1,000 citations. Nevertheless, this number pales into insignificance compared with the Lowry protein assay with over 200,000 citations. The Research Excellence Framework 2014 have softened this stark citation index. Instead they have included 1) 'impact', that encompasses holism, way beyond the limitations of academia, and 2) the 'research environment'. Panel UoA3 (Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy) 'felt strongly that CI is particularly unreliable for dentistry.'

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.853

HIV DENTISTS

Modernisation of HIV rules to better protect public

<https://www.gov.uk/government/.../modernisation-of-hiv-rules-to-better>
Page history: published 15 August 2013

'... good news for patients and HIV-positive dentists alike'

Walmsley.

Readers of this Journal have been much exercised in balancing the rights, and at their heart *primum non nocere*, of patients with those of dental care workers who are HIV positive (for evidence see Editorial *Brit Dent J* 2007; 203: 439). In this press release, it was announced that those with HIV 'will be able to carry out certain dental and surgical procedures', as long as they are undergoing treatment and are being monitored. It was also stated that 'people will be able to buy HIV self-testing kits once the kits comply with regulations'. These two announcements were linked, albeit somewhat speciously. As self-testing kits will become available, 'healthcare workers will be more likely to get tested themselves' which will have the effect of them receiving early treatment and thereby protect patients. These policies will be implemented from April 2014.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.854

DIRECT ACCESS

The General Dental Council removes barriers to direct access

Collins J. *Fac Dent J* 2013; 4: 146-147

'... barriers still exist to full direct access...'

Putting aside the tension between upstream and downstream solutions, there has been much debate as to whom should deliver dental treatment in the UK. Under the overarching principle of patient safety, a GDC 'task and finish group' was charged to consider the issue of direct access. The final report entitled *Guidance on Direct Access*, included research by Ipsos MORI. In addition, the group interrogated more than one hundred research papers. Interestingly, it was considered that under the then existing arrangements, 'DCPs may over-refer patients to dentists.' Although on 1 May 2013, the requirement was removed that certain treatments could only be carried out by a dentist, a dentist is still required 1) to prescribe local analgesia, although a Patient Group Direction could be used, 2) to prescribe radiographs, and 3) to perform the first application, or supervise tooth whitening.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.855

ARE CERTAIN FOODS ADDICTIVE?

Effects of dietary glycemic index on brain regions related to reward and craving in men

Lennerz BS, Alsop DC *et al. Am J Clin Nutr*; DOI: 10.3945/ajcn.113.064113

Following consumption of the high GI test meal, there was increased activity in the right nucleus accumbens, that area of the brain associated with reward and craving.

Links between obesity and oral diseases are recognised. These investigators assert that this study is robust in that 1) ASL (arterial spin labelling, based on MRI) was used, 2) the power of the study was increased by adopting a randomised crossover design, and 3) the high and low GI test meals that comprised milk shakes with the same number of calories, taste and sweetness 'disentangle metabolic effects from immediate hedonic responses'. It was concluded, that consumption of the high GI test meal (high GI foods contain carbohydrates that are quickly absorbed) was not only associated with an increased activity in those brain regions related to reward and craving, but was coincident with lower blood glucose and greater hunger.'

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